



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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9 December 1994

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Musa Notes Difficulties in Arab-Israeli Talks

NC0812154794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said there are major difficulties on the Syrian-Israeli track, while difficulties on the Palestinian-Israeli track escalate. Yet the peace process is still alive, he remarked.

He said this situation is due to the stands of the parties concerned: Syria, Israel, and the Palestinians. He added that Egypt's stance on working to serve Arab causes within the context of Egypt's policy is clear. He noted that Egypt is following the peace process with great interest in view of the growing challenges to the peace process.

Sha'th: Israelis Have No Plan for Withdrawal

NC0812214094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conferred this evening with Palestinian Planning Minister Dr. Nabil Sha'th. Sha'th stated that they discussed developments in the negotiations on the redeployment of the Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza in preparation for holding the elections there.

Sha'th added that the Israelis have no plan for withdrawal and that the Israeli officials' statements show their reluctance in this regard. This makes one reconsider what needs to be done to promote the peace process, he added. He noted that by failing to redeploy the Israeli troops and withdraw them from the cities, Israel would be explicitly violating the principles of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Sha'th added that Musa had informed him of Egypt's decision to open an Egyptian representative office in Gaza. The Palestinians, he added, want Egypt to seek an end to Israel's policy of closing off the Palestinian cities in Gaza and Jericho, which costs the Palestinian economy \$100 million per month and eats up the aid which the Palestinians receive from donor states.

Sha'th Remarks on Cairo Talks, Agreements Reached

TA0812192994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
8 Dec 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The first round of talks on the interim arrangement between Israel and the Palestinians ended in Cairo yesterday. The talks mainly dealt with the ideological framework of the arrangement and the shape of the discussions that will

continue next Tuesday [13 December]. Both delegation heads—Uri Savir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, and Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian Authority [PA] official in charge of foreign relations—expressed a commitment to adhere to the order of the stages determined at the Declaration of Principles [DOP], and to conduct negotiations on the interim agreement in parallel with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank, prior to holding elections in the territories.

Sha'th told the Israeli delegates that, during the discussions on the Gaza and Jericho agreement, he believed that the talks on the permanent arrangement should be expedited. "Today it is clear to us that there is no reason to rush, and that we must follow the predetermined order of things: the interim arrangement first, and the permanent arrangement later. It is clear to us that if you find discussing the interim agreement difficult, it would be impossible to discuss the permanent arrangement."

According to Sha'th, the Palestinians are very clear about how important security is for the Israelis. He said that the Palestinians will present detailed ideas on solving the security problems when detailed negotiations start. Sha'th said that the interim arrangement negotiations "should feed on three sources." The first and most important one is the DOP; the second is the Gaza and Jericho agreement; and the third—lessons learned from the implementation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement.

Sha'th stressed that cooperation between the parties is of great importance, adding that in the next stage the Palestinians will suggest that ties with Israel be tightened on several issues, including security. "When we signed the Gaza and Jericho agreement, we resented anything called cooperation. Now, we have reached the conclusion that all areas of cooperation have been successful. There was a problem in one case but, as a rule, the joint patrols and the liaison committees are the big success story of this agreement. We must engage in more joint activities."

The talks' steering committee discussed the perception of the arrangement and the security issue. The Israelis, headed by Major General 'Uzi Dayan and Uri Savir, stressed the importance of fighting terror and pointed to the importance of the PA maintaining a single source of authority for security issues—the Palestinian police, whose personnel should be the only ones allowed to carry arms. At the same time, the Israeli delegation was not authorized to open detailed discussions on the coming stages before the cabinet discusses the issue.

The shape of early empowerment in the West Bank was agreed on in yesterday's talks. Next week, the parties will present their priorities in the discussions on the transfer of 33 Civil Administration offices Israel is still managing. It has been decided that, in additional early empowerment stages, "packages" of offices will be transferred during the discussions on the interim arrangement, even before it is completed, after funds are located.

The subcommittee on elections held an initial discussion, and the Palestinian representatives said that at next week's session they will present an amended draft of the elections bill they prepared.

Israel, PA Initial Accord on International Observers

TA0812180194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Dec 94 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A draft agreement on the deployment of 400 temporary international observers in Gaza and Jericho has been initialed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PA [Palestinian Authority] Planning Minister Nabil Sha'th, according to a copy made available by Palestinian sources.

The observers from seven countries are to be stationed in Gaza, Rafah, Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, Jabalyah refugee camp, 'Abasan (near Khan Yunus), Bayt Hanun, and Jericho. Among countries which have been asked to participate are Turkey, Norway, Finland, Australia, and Canada.

The four-page document was dated October 23, but no date was provided for its implementation.

A Temporary International Presence is called for in Annex II, Article 3 of the Oslo accords in the framework of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Its functions would include promoting stability, economic development, and training of Palestinian police.

Israel, PLO Work on 'Understanding' of Next Stage

TA0812181794 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Dec 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Pe'erli Shahar]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An understanding is emerging between Israel and the PLO regarding the implementation of the next stage of the agreements, whereby Israel will accept the election model presented by the PLO although it is incompatible with the Declaration of Principles [DOP], while the PLO will take Israel's security needs into account when the redeployment is discussed.

Palestinian Authority sources told our correspondent that Israel offered 'Arafat such a deal when the two delegations conferred in Brussels prior to the donor states' conference. 'Arafat's agreed to the deal in principle. Under such an arrangement, Israel would bring forward its redeployment in locations where there are no special problems, such as Janin, but would postpone it in problematic areas like Hebron.

Israel demanded that in the problematic areas the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] maintain its presence even during elections. The PLO did not agree, but that matter is still being discussed.

The election model proposed by the PLO does not correspond with the DOP insofar as the DOP's model emphasizes the election of a president or head of a council which would not have wide-ranging powers. Israel will apparently compromise with the Palestinians on the number of council members, but will not agree to call it a legislative council as the Palestinians are demanding, the sources said. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Velayati on Sending Islamic Forces to Bosnia

LD0712144194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of a meeting of the Islamic countries' Contact Group on Bosnia-Herzegovina, Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said: At the meeting, the situation in Bosnia and ways of preventing the Serbs' aggression were studied.

Referring to the efforts by a number of countries to violate the rights of Bosnian Muslims and the inability of the CSCE to put an end to the Serbs' aggression, Mr. Velayati said: We had positive discussions at this meeting and practical measures were taken, the effects of which will appear gradually.

The foreign affairs minister added: The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed at this session that the Islamic countries should dispatch more peacekeeping forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina. He added: These forces can replace those of the countries that have threatened to withdraw from Bosnia.

On his meeting with Bosnian president, Mr. Velayati said: At the talks, bilateral relations and ways of cooperation between the two countries were studied. Mr. Alija Izetbegovic thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance to Bosnia.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 2 Dec

NC0712124894

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. IMF Presses Authorities To Devalue Egyptian Pound
2. Egypt's Move To Join Arab Maghreb Union Analyzed
3. Columnist Views Mubarak's Latest European Tour, U.S. Demands

4. Writer Urges No Normalization, Boycotting Israeli Goods
5. U.S. Experts Prepare Plan To Develop Education in Egypt
6. Israelis Conclude Deals To Confront Islamic Movements
7. Writer Defends Muslim Brotherhood Party

IMF Presses Authorities To Devalue Egyptian Pound

In a 1,400-word report on page one about Egypt's negotiations with the IMF, correspondent 'Abd-al-Rahman Isma'il says: "The U.S. Administration's threats this week to cut U.S. aid to Egypt coincided with IMF pressure on the government to devalue the Egyptian pound by 25-30 percent."

He adds that the authorities have begun contacts with Arab funds to explore the prospects for Arab loans and grants to compensate for U.S. aid if it should be stopped or reduced.

Egypt's Move To Join Arab Maghreb Union Analyzed

An article by Rachid Ghanouchi, leader of the opposition Tunisian Ennahda Movement, is published on page 4. It discusses the Arab Maghreb Union, differences among its member states, and Egypt's request to join the union.

In the 1,200-word article, Ghanouchi analyzes Egypt's motives to join the AMU. He says: "We Islamists cannot but welcome and encourage the move. No matter how hard we try to convince ourselves of the Egyptian plan's good intentions, we are unable to exclude the Islamic dimension from Egypt's foreign and domestic policies on the grounds that Egypt leads the countries that advocate a law and order solution in the all-out war against the Islamic option."

He says that with the Camp David Accord, Egyptian policy shifted from being "the first line of defense of Arabism and Islam in confronting all invasions against the nation" and from the strategy of "liberating Palestine" and unifying the Arabs to "an ambitious and mostly negative strategy." He adds that this strategy is based on following U.S. policies and showing an overwhelming desire and unlimited readiness to compete with Israel in closely allying with the United States and serving its policies in the region.

He notes that many differences among Arab, Jewish, and world forces have been downplayed in recent years in order to confront the danger of fundamentalism. Ghanouchi says: "Egyptian policies are governed by two intertwined elements: the conflict with Israel to dominate the region, including the Arab Maghreb, and the alliance with Israel to face the growth of Islam."

Columnist Views Mubarak's Latest European Tour, U.S. Demands

In a 3,000-word column on page 5, 'Adil Husayn views "U.S.-Zionist plans to weaken Egypt" and President Mubarak's most recent European tour.

He says Mubarak's tour of Britain and Italy did not achieve its goal because the two countries affirmed their "full solidarity" with the United States, Israel, and the IMF on all domestic and regional issues. He adds that British Prime Minister John Major went as far as asking President Mubarak to grant Israel direct powers to combat the "fundamentalists' terrorism" in Egypt.

Turning to Egypt's decision to join the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], he says: "None of those who defend the government have explained this move. It is known that most of those from the Arab Maghreb countries and Europe who agree on Egypt's membership in the AMU are engaged in fighting the Islamic upsurge and fighting their peoples, who are struggling against Western and Zionist domination." He adds: "Just as we were driven from the Gulf on the orders of the U.S.-Zionist alliance after taking part in a malicious, bloody task, so we will also be ordered out of the AMU after being involved in a similar task."

Writer Urges No Normalization, Boycotting Israeli Goods

Page 5 of AL-SHA'B runs an approximately 650-word article by Counselor Salih Abu-Raqiq, who views Israeli aims behind making peace with the Arabs.

After reviewing Israel's "plans" against the Arabs, he says: "I look forward and backward and turn right and left and see no hope, but in the Islamic nations—Arab and non-Arab—if they are still alive and retain their pride, strong faith, and piety. They should decide on two things: Rejecting normalization [with Israel] and boycotting Israeli goods, as well as insisting on jihad."

U.S. Experts Prepare Plan To Develop Education in Egypt

A 90-word report on page 6 by Mahmud Bakri says: "AL-SHA'B has learned that a committee of U.S. experts made up of 15 members concluded last week a plan to develop education in Egypt. The plan has been referred to the U.S. national security apparatus."

The reports adds: "Washington intends to force Egypt into accepting the plan in a derisive attempt to impose Western curricula on the education of the young generations. Reports indicate that the United States will establish a link between the Egyptian Government's implementation of this plan and U.S. aid to Egypt."

Israelis Conclude Deals To Confront Islamic Movements

Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah writes an approximately 1,200-word report on page 8 on what he calls Israel's attempts abroad to curb Islamic movements.

Beginning his report, 'Arafah says: "In under a week the Zionists concluded numerous major deals and signed many security and intelligence agreements with Britain and perhaps with Spain to confront Islamic movements

worldwide." He adds that it has been announced in Britain that an Israeli-British agreement has been signed between police officials in both countries. The aim of the agreement is to cooperate against the activities of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas and against those who levy contributions on the pretext that these funds are allocated for supporting Hamas.

Writer Defends Muslim Brotherhood Party

AL-SHA'B's Page 9 features an approximately 1,150-word article by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab Fayid, who responds to an article in AL-AHRAM that calls for persecuting the Muslim Brothers.

Fayid argues that the formation of a religious party is not exclusive to Egypt and that Christian democratic parties exist in Western Europe and in Israel, which "brags of being the oasis of democracy in the region."

He says the Jews, who number no more than 4 million in Israel, that is, one-third of Cairo's population, have become a danger threatening the Arabs. He adds: They pose a threat to the Arab nation, which numbers 250 million people surrounding Israel, but Israel disregards and ridicules them while Arab leaders make overtures to it.

The author also criticizes the Jordanian king, saying he "leased part of his land to Israel for 25 years in return for money" and the Moroccan king, "chairman of the committee responsible for restoring Jerusalem, who stated that anyone who hopes we will regain Jerusalem is under an illusion."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians on Anniversary

JN0812182994 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1515 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Report by radio correspondent 'Adil al-Za'nun]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his speech during the speech rally which was held in the Jabalya camp today on the seventh anniversary of the inception of the intifadah, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and head of the National Authority, saluted the martyrs, headed by the prince of martyrs Abu-Jihad [late Khalil al-Wazir].

At this rally, which was attended by thousands of citizens, President 'Arafat greeted the detainees, headed by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. The president stressed that the pledge is the pledge and the oath is the oath.

The president added: We still have a long way to go. However, we are certain that we will arrive, and a Palestinian child will hoist the Palestinian flag over the walls, minarets, and churches of holy Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state whether they like it or not.

The president stressed the need for national unity under the Palestinian flag and National Authority. He added: We are for political pluralism and democracy. President 'Arafat said that the authority is for all, emphasizing the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking.

He added: I tell the whole world that the Palestinian will which was embodied by the PLO and the National Authority is the Palestinian people's decision.

The president expressed confidence in the people who made miracles, and said that they can achieve victory. He noted that we have many tasks and our road is difficult.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency in the National Authority, and Intisar al-Wazir, Umm-Jihad, minister of social affairs.

'Arafat Leaves for Norway, Finland, Sweden

JN0912112394 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1030 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Oslo this morning to receive the Nobel Peace Prize tomorrow. The prize was also granted to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. His excellency will hold talks with the two Israeli officials there on the next stage regarding the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the problems related to the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from all occupied Palestinian territory, as well as the Palestinian legislative elections.

His Excellency 'Arafat will also visit Finland to hold talks with Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari and his prime minister. The Finnish president will host a luncheon banquet in honor of His Excellency President 'Arafat, who will then continue his tour of a number of neighboring countries and will arrive in Sweden Sunday evening.

'Abbas Argues Against Forming Fatah Forces

MM0612150694 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic* 4 Dec 94 p 2

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, by Munsif al-Sulaymi in Rabat; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Sulaymi] Around this time two years ago you were preparing to engage in the secret negotiations over the Oslo accord. Two years on, what are Abu-Mazin's interests?

['Abbas] Matters are linked. When we sit down 18 months after the accord was signed and ask what have we achieved and what can we achieve, we see the difficulties facing the implementation of the accord, the obstacles hampering its implementation, and the problems created to obstruct the implementation. I also think about the

future and how the negotiations can be completed and the final solution be achieved. And there are other issues, such as the refugee issue, preoccupying the mind.

[Al-Sulaymi] You participated in the Fatah Central Committee meeting held in the Tunisian capital recently. A statement was issued, urging that Palestinian arms should not be used against Palestinians, and it was reported that President 'Arafat was not satisfied with the statement.

[Abbas] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] might be dissatisfied with the meeting and the statement. The reason could be that it is the first time a number of leaders have met to issue something publicly. In fact we have never been used to that. But because of what happened in Gaza and because of our utmost concern for Palestinian national unity and the need for the Palestinian Authority to succeed and represent all the Palestinian people, and in order to ensure that Palestinian arms are not used against Palestinians, we had to meet in Tunis to say three things: what happened is unacceptable and amounts to a crime, an investigation must be launched and those responsible must be punished, and the institutions must be set up in order to reduce or end the negative aspects facing us now.

I would like to say that our meeting was not official, nor did we speak in the Central Committee's name, because the quorum was incomplete. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sulaymi] Are you satisfied with the committee formed to investigate the Friday incidents in Gaza?

[Abbas] I have no details about that issue. In principle, the formation of an investigation committee is a good thing. Second, it is noted that the march organized by Hamas last week complied with what had been agreed with the Authority—a good indication proving that it is possible to reach an understanding on other issues in the future. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sulaymi] But Hamas says that the Palestinian Authority is infiltrated by quarters seeking to confuse reconciliation endeavors and the possibility of implementing a certain agreement emanating from the two sides' political will.

[Abbas] Why does Hamas not go to the Authority and talk with it clearly and frankly about what it wants, what it should do, and what its rights and duties are? If an agreement is reached on these issues, I do not think the Authority would object to implementing what had been agreed.

Generally, the Authority is not entitled to prevent the opposition from exercising opposition, staging demonstrations, expressing its opinion, or holding meetings. Nor is the opposition entitled to embark on any action in the self-rule area that is likely to affect the Authority's security, cause any embarrassment to the Authority, or deprive it of its balance and credibility.

[Al-Sulaymi] How can the armed struggle issue raised by opposition organizations and President 'Arafat's formation of Fatah committees parallel to Palestinian security forces be tackled in the light of the two sides' rigidity?

[Abbas] In my view, any attempt to create forces or militias from Fatah would be a mistake. Because the Palestinian Authority belongs to all the Palestinian people's sons—Fatah and others.

Second, regarding the armed struggle question, the matter is clear. No armed struggle can be launched in the self-rule territory, because it is liberated or almost liberated (moving toward liberation). And any actions of that kind would directly affect the Authority and its credibility. Besides, using arms and firing bullets in the self-rule area would be an invitation to the Israelis to return to Gaza. So why complicate matters in an area of whose security the Authority is in charge?

[Al-Sulaymi] The issue of disarming the opposition is complicated and presages threats of new confrontations.

[Abbas] All forces in Gaza, including Fatah and Hamas, should be disarmed as long as the Palestinian Authority's arms are there. No one except the Authority should have arms, otherwise it would be a jungle and a chaotic situation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sulaymi] Do you agree with President 'Arafat regarding foreign roles in inter-Palestinian confrontations?

[Abbas] Of course, there are internal (Palestinian) roles and external non-Palestinian roles.

[Al-Sulaymi] Where does Israel fit into what is happening on the Palestinian scene?

[Abbas] We do not want to look at Israel as a friendly state, nor can we now look at it as a friend. Thus we must study all the actions very carefully to find how matters are proceeding. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sulaymi] Have the differences with Jordan over the issue of jurisdiction over Jerusalem, which the Jordanian-Israeli accord provoked, been eliminated?

[Abbas] The issue of religious jurisdiction is a separate issue and has nothing to do with the fate of Jerusalem. It is an issue between us and the Jordanians. It happened when links were severed between us and Jordan (in 1988). We agreed that religious endowments and Islamic holy places would remain under Jordan's supervision. Jordan agreed to that, and it is a temporary matter until Jerusalem is recovered.

And then we would recover it fully, politically and religiously. Jordan has stressed that, and it does not object to it. The statements made by King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan, and the prime minister indicate so. Thus I believe that these statements have ended the questions and suspicions regarding the position on Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

'Occupied Homeland' Official on Opposition*MM0912093094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 94 p 3*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Palestinian official has stressed the importance of the opposition, represented in Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. He pointed out that this opposition is very essential in the stage ahead, since it will be the trump card for the Palestinian Authority to use in the final phase to protect Palestinian rights in the future.

Dr. Zuhdi Sa'id, head of the PLO Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, pointed out that the Palestinian opposition rejecting the peace process is the fuel for the next battle in the negotiation over the final status of the main issues which have been deferred, namely the refugee issue, the Jerusalem issue, the settlements issue, the security issue, and the border issue—which requires that the opposition remain strong and capable of responding appropriately to Israeli intransigence.

Dr. Sa'id added in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the relationship between the authority and the Islamic opposition is critical and tense as a result of the differences between the two sides. [passage omitted]

On the extent of the authority's representation of the Palestinian people Dr. Zuhdi Sa'id said that the authority should represent the entire people. He said that the confusion that happened following the tragic incidents in Gaza made the authority appear as though it is a party to the conflict. Thus this confusion should be eliminated so that the National Authority can be seen as part of the people and representing all their forces. The authority has on several occasions urged all Palestinian political forces to join its frameworks and to participate in the institutional and democratic building process, even without commitment to the responsibilities of the agreements rejected by some forces.

On the demand for disarming Hamas and the possibility of Palestinian infighting if Israel continues to insist on disarming it, Sa'id stressed that this issue should not be discussed before the settlements and all other vestiges of the occupation in the Gaza Strip have been removed. He pointed out that the question of achieving security in the self-rule area is strongly linked to the removal of the non-useful settlements.

Without that, talking about disarmament would appear inconceivable. Because the Israeli insistence on this matter is bound to embarrass the authority before the Palestinian masses, who are leaning toward supporting the forces rejecting the peace process because of the Israeli intransigence and the authority's inability to achieve Palestinian demands and aspirations.

The Occupied Homeland Affairs Department head acknowledged the existence of clear administrative sterility in the authority's institutions. However, he says, the time has not come yet to judge and assess its

performance as regards defining the priorities. He said that all the organs set up by the Palestinian Authority are being assessed—which is a good sign.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Entrenchment of Power in PA*TA0212180394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 1 Dec 94 p 23*

[Report by Mahir al-'Alami]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the official responsible for Palestinian culture and information, has said that the Palestinian Authority [PA] still lacks the most elementary foundations of government, foremost of all a system and law to govern its actions, whether inside the PA, among its members, between its head and members, or between the PA and society's institutions. This situation leads to many of the phenomena that we are currently witnessing, such as the entrenchment of an individual's role, power, and rule and sometimes his judgment and mood. This does not apply to the PA alone but to all levels, whereby personal whim could lead to a state of anarchy and fragmentation and open the way to disputes the gravity of which might evolve, increase, and threaten our entire national destiny.

In a seminar organized yesterday by the Arab Intellectual Forum under the title "Freedom of Opinion," the date of which was fixed before the confiscation of newspapers in Gaza, 'Abd-Rabbuh affirmed his objection to any measures or restrictions against journalists and newspapers. [passage omitted]

'Abd-Rabbuh acknowledged the existence of flaws that are not limited to encroachment upon freedoms and which are no less grave than the flaw in the Palestinian side's negotiating policy. He said: "This is a fundamental issue that involves our future. I will not talk about the Palestinians' negotiating flaws in the past. I will concentrate on the present. The occupation deals with us on the basis that there are no agreements between it and us. At the recent meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the Erez checkpoint, the Israeli side—as usual—tried to portray any overture it made as an immense achievement by us."

'Abd-Rabbuh added: "For example, the Israeli side made a great fuss about allowing a few thousand laborers to enter Israel and considered this an achievement, or it considered permitting scores of trucks to enter Israel as a great achievement. It also regards the transfer of some powers as an achievement. Even if they agree to discuss economic issues, such as our customs and tax rights, they say this is an achievement. These things were supposed to have been achieved a long time ago at the beginning of the interim stage. The Israelis are dealing with us as if we had no basis on which to stand in the current negotiating process. Take the issues of the Israeli army redeployment and elections. They have turned the issue into this: Will elections be held after a temporary withdrawal or will the

redeployment exclude some areas? This occurs despite the fact that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is clear. It provides for the Israeli army's withdrawal from heavily populated Palestinian areas and its deployment in specific areas until the final stage."

'Abd-Rabbuh said: "We are in a situation where I fear that the world will behave as if our problem were resolved. This will deprive us of international sympathy, especially in the Arab world, which has begun to behave as if the Palestinian problem were settled. Under this pretext, the Arab world, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf, is seeking to normalize relations with Israel."

PA, Hamas Officials Remove Slogans From Walls
JN0612175894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1515 GMT 6 Dec 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency in the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA]; Jamal al-Surani, PLO Executive Committee member; and Dr Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders; today participated in removing the slogans that were daubed on the walls in Gaza following the Friday events, three weeks ago.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that all are eager to safeguard democracy and political pluralism and to respect the National Authority under brother Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the agreement signed between Fatah and Hamas shows that our Palestinian people are united. He stressed that all those who wager on the Lebanonization of this people are the losers and they must know that Palestinian blood cannot be shed by Palestinians. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that removing the slogans that were written following the Friday incidents is a message by our people to the world that we are united and a people that does not accept fragmentation or intra-Palestinian fighting, and that they believe in democracy and political pluralism. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that all parties have good intentions to overcome the tribulation which is a harsh lesson from which we should learn.

For his part, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip and a member of the dialogue committee, said that the Friday incidents are alien to our Palestinian values. He said these incidents should not recur and all obstacles that brought about these incidents should be removed.

Dr. al-Zahhar said that there are issues which require further discussion.

PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani said that this is a message to our people that everything is proceeding on the right course. He added that everybody will participate in removing the slogans to keep our

city clean. Al-Surani said that agreement was reached on basic issues, the most important is not to hold demonstrations or gatherings and not to carry weapons in public with the exception of the Palestinian Police.

Russia, PA Sign Protocol on Security Cooperation
TA0712150094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, Wafa—A protocol on cooperation in the field of security between the Russian Government and the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] was signed yesterday at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

According to this protocol, the Russian Ministry of the Interior will train Palestinian cadres in the field of security.

The agreement was signed by the Russian deputy interior minister and Da'ud Barakat, the ambassador of Palestine in Moscow.

Fatah's Sakhr Habash on PA, Other Factions
MM0612124994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Dec 94 p 6

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Sakhr Habash by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It has been reported that there are quarters trying to thwart the peace process, especially the Gaza-Jericho accord, and Rabin is among these quarters. What is your opinion?

[Habash] Rabin is not working to topple 'Arafat. Rabin told President Bill Clinton not to listen to Israel's hard-line supporters in the White House, who are seeking to topple President 'Arafat by any means and to topple the peace process for the sake of the hard-line Likud Bloc. These supporters are headed by Martin Indyk and Dennis Ross. Rabin wants to exploit Yasir 'Arafat's popularity to ignite dedition among the Palestinians themselves or between the Palestinians and the Arab states concerned with the peace process, especially Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Rabin's aim is to undermine the national plan seeking to establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, so that there would be merely self-rule over the inhabitants, not the territory. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] If Fatah has obligations preventing it from maintaining the armed struggle, why does it not let the other forces carry out this task?

[Habash] Fatah supports the National Authority, but it is not the Palestinian Authority [PA]. There are Fatah members who are opposed to the accord or voice more reservations about it than all the other organizations. But

its approval by the Central Council, to which all the factions belong, grants legitimacy to this historic and adventurous experiment, which—if everyone works sincerely—can be developed to achieve the aim of establishing a Palestinian state, provided there is good performance, institutions are established, and freedoms; party, organizational, and democratic pluralism; human rights; and the minority's freedom of expression are secured. And since the authority is in charge of the areas under its control, not the areas under occupation, especially as this occupation has ignored the time schedule endorsed by the declaration of principles agreement, all forms of struggle, including armed struggle, become a necessity, not only for those who did not support the declaration of principles agreement or those who voiced reservations about or opposed it, but also for those supporting its implementation. So if negotiations become the only option, it means full exposure to the sun of Zionist tyranny. So while we salute the struggle and the fight against the occupation army, we reject any action that is bound to weaken the Palestinian Authority or lead to Palestinian infighting. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Fatah issued a statement inside [the self-rule area], accusing Hamas and Islamic Jihad of fomenting sedition, and announcing that it would confront them. What is your opinion?

[Habash] Fatah—which launched the Palestinian revolution and assumed the main role in the intifadah and the armed struggle march, which offered numerous martyrs, and whose members were put in the occupation's jails—stresses its care for national unity. It is in no way seeking to become the sole ruling party. It believes in its leading role in the framework of pluralism and democracy, guarded by the shield of national unity. Any attempt to push Fatah into direct confrontation with Hamas and the Jihad—as though it represents the National Authority—would tantamount to mobilization for a potential civil war, of whose threats it warns.

There should be no attempts to instigate Fatah against Hamas and the Jihad, despite the differences of opinion. Because it is like a mother who cares about her child. Her care cannot be expressed by severing necks or brandishing the swords of ignorance but, rather, by loftiness and wisdom and by tackling problems the way it has always done. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Statement Marks Intifadah Anniversary

JN0612211894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Dec 94

["Political statement" issued by the PFLP-GC on the seventh anniversary of the intifadah; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Since its eruption seven years ago, the blessed popular revolution in Palestine was able to clearly demonstrate the will of the Palestinian people and their awareness of the nature of the conflict. [passage omitted]

On the occasion of the beginning of the eighth year of the blessed intifadah, we in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] want to emphasize the following facts:

1. The intifadah in Palestine will continue to be the active illustration of our people and the most mature means for confronting the occupation and its accomplices. Even if the methods of confrontation are changed, the intifadah will continue to represent the essence of this confrontation no matter how difficult the circumstances might be.

2. Our masses have proven their full awareness when they expressed rejection of the so-called administrative self-rule authority and continued their resistance of the occupation authority.

3. Our people who resisted occupation with their bare hands, will not be dissuaded from continuing their jihad by the mercenaries of the self-rule, and will face the attempts to sow sedition and civil war through punishing and isolating the symbols of treason.

4. The democracy and yardsticks of the United States, and its disregard for the freedom of our people and the Palestinian human rights prove again that the United States has chosen a policy that antagonizes our people and nation. The demonstrations of popular anger and the continuation of the intifadah will continue to be the real referendum that represents our people's choice and path.

5. We in the PFLP-GC, based on our conviction that our people will certainly triumph and on our confidence in the ability, awareness, sacrifices of our masses, emphasize that the determination of our mujahidin and their adherence to their rifles will not be undermined by any pressures or bargains regardless of how strong these pressures might be. We will do all we can to upgrade the alliance formula with all national and Islamic forces in all Arab and international arenas in order to pursue the struggle with the Zionist enemy and develop its forms until the freedom of land and man is realized.

[Signed] PFLP-GC

APF Intifadah Statement on Alternative Leadership

JN0812202194 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Dec 94

["Text" of statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces on the intifadah anniversary; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. Political statement issued

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by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] on the beginning of the eighth year of the Palestinian intifadah. [passage omitted]

Our struggling people: The valiant intifadah is the symbol of our people's pride, nay, the symbol of our Arab and Islamic nation's pride. In these difficult circumstances, the intifadah anniversary is an occasion which calls for cohesiveness and unity among all the active forces of our people and our Arab and Islamic nation in all arenas of struggle in our occupied Palestinian territory and in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and elsewhere in the Arab homeland. It is an occasion which calls for escalating struggle to confront the imperialist-Zionist scheme and confronting all forms of penetration, invasion, and normalization to defend our right to life and dignity. This glorious anniversary—the valiant intifadah anniversary—the martyrs' blood, and the dear sacrifices offered in the course of the intifadah all call upon us to respond to the appeal of our people and our conscience to set up an alternative national authority, a nationalist-Islamic leadership, that supports the escalation of our people's intifadah and struggle in order to defeat the occupation, topple the Oslo agreement and its signatories, and to achieve our people's national objective toward liberation, repatriation, and full national independence.

Long live the glorious intifadah, long live our Palestinian people's struggle. Defeat and disgrace to the Zionist enemies and all defeatist capitulationists.

[Signed] The APF

Hamas, Jihad Officials on Tripartite Committee
MM0612163494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, Information Services Center—It is noted that the "Palestinian Jihad movement in Palestine" was not included in the committee formed last Friday at the meeting held in Gaza between the Palestinian Authority, represented by its head Yasir 'Arafat, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], represented by Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar.

The committee, whose task is to calm the situation after the Friday [18 November] massacre in Gaza, was formed from representatives from Hamas, Fatah, and the Palestinian Authority, with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani as its head.

Dr. al-Zahhar told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Palestinian Authority "tried to evade participating in one committee with Hamas. It wanted to confine the committee to Hamas and Fatah."

Al-Zahhar added: "We rejected that approach, since there are no problems between Hamas and Fatah to prompt them to form their own committee. Our main problem is with the Palestinian Authority." Al-Zahhar

said: We raised the following question to those concerned: "What would we do if problems occur between Hamas and the Authority in the future? Would we turn to Fatah?" Finally, 'Arafat was convinced of the need to form a (tripartite) committee without the Islamic Jihad movement—the faction which has been a party to the conflicts and the rivalry over recent weeks in the Gaza Strip.

On the Islamic Jihad's exclusion, al-Zahhar said: "The committee is not aimed at marginalizing any opposition faction on the Palestinian scene. Hamas joined this committee with the Palestinian Authority after consulting the various other factions, including the Islamic Jihad."

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Jihad movement—according to one of its leaders—believes that President 'Arafat will continue to confront the opposition. Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami is demanding—in the movement's name—the formation of a neutral legal committee to determine who was responsible for the Gaza confrontations, in which 13 people were killed and over 200 injured. Al-Shami is also demanding the formation of a legal organ to judge the authority for negligence and mistakes.

The Jihad is not objecting to its exclusion from the committee. A Jihad official, who asked to remain anonymous, has said that this committee conflicts with the Islamic Jihad. [sentence as published] The official stressed coordination is continuing with Hamas, saying that "numerous meetings are held between the Jihad and Hamas and the agreement"—on the committee's formation—"strengthens the cohesion between Hamas on the one hand and the other factions, including the Islamic Jihad, on the other."

Hamas Leader Issues New Newspaper in Gaza Strip

TA0812180394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new newspaper called AL-WATAN [THE HOMELAND] appeared today in the Gaza Strip after obtaining a license from the Palestinian Authority. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that the publisher and editor in chief of this newspaper is Shaykh 'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip.

Publishes 1st Edition

NC0812195594 Paris AFP in English 1925 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Dec 8 (AFP)—The first issue of a weekly newspaper run by the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas appeared

Thursday [8 December], featuring attacks on PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority.

The 16-page tabloid AL-WATAN (THE NATION) invited articles from everyone, regardless of political or party allegiance, and promised to respect freedom of speech and truth.

'Imad al-Faluji, the paper's chief editor and a Hamas leader, obtained permission to publish from the Palestinian Authority around two months ago.

The contributors include other prominent Hamas figures, such as Sayyid Abu-Musamih, considered second to the group's spiritual guide Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, who is in jail in Israel.

Other journalists loyal to Hamas and to the smaller radical group Islamic Jihad have issued publications sporadically since the start of Palestinian self-rule, but AL-WATAN is the first newspaper to be completely run by Hamas leaders.

A column by key Hamas leader Mahmud al-Zahhar told readers that "the Palestinian Authority is here because of the Oslo agreement and not because of support from the Palestinian people."

He was referring to the PLO-Israeli autonomy accords hammered out in secret talks in Oslo, which led to the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

Following bloody clashes between 'Arafat's police and fundamentalists last month, Hamas and the PLO formed a conciliation committee in a bid to ease tension.

But al-Zahhar insisted that the contacts did not mean Hamas recognised the Authority as a "legally-chosen and recognised authority."

The rest of the paper included news from Palestinian agencies and local reporters, a story on Islamic groups in Egypt and an analysis of Israel's "strategy to kill the Palestinian economy."

A health page outlined the theory that man was created before woman, in an article entitled "From Adam's Rib."

On a page devoted to "the oasis of faith," women were advised to avoid jobs such as traffic police work which would bring them into contact with men.

Editorial Questions Israeli Commitments, Pledges
TA0612191894 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Dec 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Unjustified Reservations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One cannot describe the statements and hints emanating from official Israeli parties about the interim agreement with the Palestinians as a cause for satisfaction. After last week's statements on

conducting Palestinian elections without redeployment of Israeli forces, a crescendo of Israeli statements over the past two days have called for a reassessment of the interim agreement itself.

The reasons and justifications presented by Israel for this illogical demand are what it calls security reasons. In fact, those reasons themselves should have induced the Israeli side to accelerate the peace process and not place difficulties and obstacles before it.

Undoubtedly, an objective analysis of the current situation will show without the slightest doubt that the peace process has not been completed yet and that its goals and objectives have not been achieved. International resolutions that called for exchanging land for peace and realizing legitimate Palestinian aspirations have not been implemented to date. It is inconceivable to assess the security situation before those aspirations are realized.

If the Israeli side persists in slowing down the peace momentum under the slogan of security reasons, it will inflict the greatest harm to the cause of peace, which concerns all peoples and parties. The Israeli side has always stated and continues to state that this cause is at the top of its concerns. Then, to whose interest will the peace process be slowed down, and who will benefit from such an act?

The question which this Israeli reservation about implementing the second stage of the Oslo agreement raises is that of the credibility of Israeli commitments and pledges made in this agreement. The world welcomed the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and many countries regarded it as a real opening to a peace opportunity that must not be missed, because the only alternative for this opportunity is the continuation of the cycles of violence and destruction that accompanied the past five decades of the region's history. Hence, an objective and logical contemplation will call for adhering to the provisions of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and acting seriously to implement those provisions which have not been implemented yet. This is because all the reasons that Israel is raising to justify its reservation about the agreement suggest the opposite, namely, accelerating its implementation in order to complete the peace process.

Israel Said To Grant Citizenship to 'Collaborators'

NC0812080694 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 5 Dec 94 p 8

[Unattributed report from the "News" page]

[FBIS Translated Text] An informed Palestinian source has revealed that Israel has granted Israeli citizenship to some 618 Palestinian former collaborators in Gaza. The same source added that 194 of those have settled in Arab villages and towns, while the rest were distributed among mixed cities that house both Arabs and Jews.

It is worth noting that these collaborators are socially rejected by both Jews and Arabs in their new environment.

Moreover, the source adds that Israel plans to grant citizenship to some 100 Lebanese collaborators after its withdrawal from the occupied border strip in south Lebanon.

Minister Discusses Israeli 'Obstacles,' Aid

NC0812101594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Palestinian Finance Minister Zuhdi al-Nashashibi has accused Israel of blocking work on the emergency marine port in Gaza by taking arbitrary measures. In a statement to the newspaper AL-'ALAM AL-YAWM published today, he noted that Israel is placing obstacles to trade between Palestine and the other countries of the world, especially its arbitrary blocking of the import of basic materials necessary for Palestinian Authority [PA] projects, measures that are not in line with the Oslo Agreement that was signed by both parties. He noted that Israel prevented the import of marine cement, iron bars, and even the stone blocks necessary for building the emergency port in Gaza, which is funded by the Palestinians at a cost of \$6 million.

Al-Nashashibi said that the Palestinian cabinet has decided to establish industrial zones in Gaza. He praised Egypt's successful experience in this area and called for benefiting from it.

Discussing the most important features of the Palestinian investment law, al-Nashashibi said that this law provides complete guarantees for capital invested inside the Palestinian territory.

Regarding the aid promised by the donor nations, al-Nashashibi expressed his belief that these nations will fulfill their obligations before the end of the year. He expected implementation of the infrastructure projects on a large scale in the self-rule areas in 1995, noting that an agreement was reached with the donor nations to fund the deficit in the Palestinian budget, which will total \$120 million as of 30 March 1995.

On the PA's intention to issue its own Palestinian currency, al-Nashashibi said that this matter is out of the question at present, because it requires an in-depth study to provide guarantees that require ensuring economic, monetary, political, and financial circumstances that will enable us to support the value of the currency before issuing it. He does not expect a Palestinian currency to be issued for two years. He noted that dealings in the self-rule areas involve three basic currencies—the U.S. dollar, the Jordanian dinar, and the Israeli shekel.

In discussing banking activities in the self-rule areas, al-Nashashibi said that, despite the success of the Arab Land Bank in commercial transactions, its main goal will be funding housing projects. He said that there is no investment plan to establish four banks in Gaza. He noted that the banks that operated in Gaza before 1967—the Arab Land Bank, the Bank of Jordan, the Cairo-Amman Bank, and the Arab Bank—have reopened and expanded their branches there.

Editorial on 'Special' Relations With Jordan

TA0612200394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Dec 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Toward a Permanent Special Relationship"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Undoubtedly, the reports and signs over the last few days about the success of the Palestinian and Jordanian sides—as a result of intensive and constructive efforts—in overcoming transient differences that strained the firm and special historic relationship, and about an imminent fruitful summit between President Yasir 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn are a cause for satisfaction. Those reports have been received with great pleasure by the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples on the premise that these successful efforts enhance the fraternal and special relations between the two peoples and deny the opportunity to those who have always wagered not only on fragmenting the unity of the Arab rank but also the unity of the single people.

The Palestinian and Jordanian peoples are aware that the common suffering which they have experienced for many decades have never been caused by differences between the two peoples despite the numerous efforts that have always sought to obliterate the main conflict in the region, namely, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the central problem, the Palestinian problem. The two peoples are also aware that even though the common and close relations that bind them are special, they are not isolated from the close relations between the sons of the Arab nation. Those relations are stronger than any transient differences and any efforts to exploit them in the interest of the two peoples' enemies. [passage omitted]

In short, since the Jordanian and Palestinian sides have affirmed that Arab Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied territories, and since fraternal Jordan has underscored its commitment to end the occupation of the holy city and to the Palestinian side's right of sovereignty over it as part of the Palestinian territories, it is obvious that the main disagreement is not between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides but between each of them, as well as between the Arab and Islamic nation, and Israel, which insists on disregarding international legitimacy and its resolutions. This reality cannot be obliterated by any transient differences in the Arab arena.

Daily on Need for U.S. Pressure on Israel for Accord

TA0812174694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Dec 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour and the Palestinian Track"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Media sources described the position of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher before yesterday's meeting with Palestinian President 'asir 'Arafat as "sympathetic" to Israeli demands, which call for delaying the implementation of the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. This position was apparent from the U.S. secretary's remarks, especially following his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The remarks which Secretary Christopher made in the wake of his meeting with President 'Arafat did not contradict his previous remarks, although he lauded the Palestinian National Authority's and the Palestinian people's efforts in confronting the challenges and difficulties. The U.S. secretary of state, however, focused on spelling out Israel's security needs, even though the Palestinians are unable to meet those needs because this requires the introduction of modifications and changes in the provisions of the Oslo agreement, which was

signed in Washington with the blessing of U.S. President Bill Clinton and in the presence of Secretary Christopher himself.

Undoubtedly, Christopher's current visit, which coincided with the beginning of a new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo, can be effective in activating the Palestinian track provided the U.S. Administration has the necessary will to bring about such effectiveness. There is also no doubt that U.S. fulfillment of this positive role will not be in the interest of the Palestinians alone but in the interest of all parties. Successive developments and the challenges and dangers facing the peace process dictate that Washington exert intense pressure on Israel to persuade it to implement the second stage of the interim agreement.

Hence, the sympathy which the U.S. Administration is showing toward one party of the Palestinian-Israeli track, specifically toward Israel, can only aggravate the situation and undermine U.S. credibility in the efforts for peace. This, at a time when the current conditions require one to assess the situation and enhance the peace process by adopting objective and rational positions that advance the process toward the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate goals and aspirations. This alone constitutes the firm basis for a just and comprehensive peace in the entire region.

Algeria

Student Killed, 9 Wounded in Attack on School

LD0812205294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Boufarik [northern Algeria], a group of terrorists yesterday opened fire on secondary school students while they were entering their school, and then fled. As a result, a girl was killed and others wounded. Here is report on the incident.

[Correspondent] At 1505 yesterday evening, an armed group opened fire on secondary school students close to the gate of Zaidan secondary school in Boufarik. Djedidi Mahdia, a 17-year-old girl, was killed. She was a student at the vocational training institute and was passing by. Nine secondary school students were wounded in the incident. They were taken to hospitals for treatment. [passage omitted]

Security Services Kill 8 'Terrorists' in Algiers

LD0812204894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services today said that following information supplied by citizens on the presence of a terrorist group in a specific place on the Eucalyptus road in El Harrach [district of Algiers], the security services yesterday, Wednesday, launched a search operation, during which the location of the criminals was ascertained.

As a result of an attack launched by the security forces after an exchange of fire, eight terrorists were killed. The process of identifying them is currently under way. A quantity of stolen weapons, ammunition, and vehicles were recovered.

We have also learned from the security services that the so-called Messakh Abdelsamad was killed today in Oran. He was a dangerous terrorist and the leader of a terrorist group which has carried out a number of assassinations. There had been an intensive search for him.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Addresses Economic Gathering

NC0812132494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that peace cannot be strengthened and stability achieved in the region without a sound economy. He noted that a sound economy requires a new spirit. He said the presence of businessmen at the European Union [EU] and Middle East Countries Forum being held in Cairo is considered to symbolize this spirit. At the roundtable meeting stemming from the forum, which is resuming its work for a

third day, Musa said that the meeting convenes within a sound framework, particularly in view of the good preparation for this gathering that seeks cooperation between the Middle East and the EU.

Musa said he is participating in this forum after attending the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Budapest within the framework of the work of the liaison team concerned with the Bosnian problem. He noted that there is a focus on issues of common concern to both the Middle East and Europe. He said the meeting emphasized that the security of the Middle East and Europe is integrated and interdependent. He said the establishment of a forum for Mediterranean countries is a step toward broader cooperation between the Middle East and Europe and that this step was backed on every level during the meetings in Alexandria. He stressed that the forum will create common cooperation in the interest of businessmen and the region.

Musa called on participants in the meeting to discuss these important points, which are considered essential in the new alliance between businessmen in the Middle East and Europe and the partnership between the governments of the two regions. He noted the points:

1. Europe boosting economic development in the Middle East so that the economies of both regions become real partners.
2. The lessons the Middle East can learn from the European experience, particularly regarding integration among various communities, cultures, and economic alliances.
3. The best role the public and private sectors can play in the two areas in strengthening cooperation between the EU and the Middle East.

Concluding his speech, Musa called on participants to pay special attention to the Palestinian economy. He stressed that the Palestinian people have suffered for many years and need our cooperation because they are the crux of the conflict in the Middle East, and without the Palestinians there can be no comprehensive peace in the region.

Musa on 'Challenges' to Islamic World, Bosnia

NC0812193694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is scheduled to leave Cairo for Casablanca tomorrow, Friday, heading Egypt's delegation to the Islamic countries' foreign ministers conference, due to open on Saturday.

Musa said the Islamic world faces unprecedented challenges and a massive attack both from within and abroad, and that this Islamic Conference meeting is being held amid an overcast atmosphere.

He explained that the Bosnia problem is a reminder for everyone of the explicit injustice and great disdain for the Islamic world and for anything representing it. He noted that this issue will top the conference agenda, in addition to other subjects of utmost concern to everyone, such as the status of and the onslaught on the Islamic world, Jerusalem, development, and Islamic solidarity.

The foreign minister said the Islamic world's issues cannot be faced by us alone and there should be Islamic-Arab solidarity in the face of such issues. He remarked that Egypt does not envisage confrontation but a decisive and strong dialogue in this regard. This, he said, is how Egypt is dealing with the Bosnian and all other Islamic issues.

Al-Baz Urges 'National Dignity' Before U.S. Aid

MM0912091494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian President's office for political affairs, has said that Egypt cannot deal with the West's sayings as "revelations." Because it cares about national dignity, which comes before aid. And we do not expect any pressure or arm-twisting from friends.

He said this while commenting on Egyptian-U.S. relations and what was reported about them recently.

In a political seminar at al-Minufiyah University he said that there are forces trying to exploit the Western crisis with Libya. He pointed out that Egypt's intervention in the crisis proceeds primarily from its eagerness to decrease tension in the region and achieve a kind of stability. He stressed Egypt's respect for international legitimacy and at the same time its complete refusal to interfere in the internal affairs of any state in the region.

Al-Baz pointed out that Egypt will be faced at the beginning of next year, 1995, with five challenges: completing the peace process in the Middle East, crystallizing a new concept of pan-Arab security, achieving Arab reconciliation, trying to reach a common understanding between the developed North and the developing South, and managing the relationship with the non-Islamic world in the light of the growing negative view of Islam.

Suez Canal Chairman: No Plan for Privatization

NC0812171494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, 8 Dec (MENA)—Engineer 'Izzat 'Adil, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, has affirmed that for years the Authority has been trying to improve service for the transiting ships and increasing the depth of the canal. This has prompted tankers using the Cape of Good Hope to use the canal instead to carry cargo, industrial products, and oil from the Far East to Europe and vice versa, he added.

Speaking in Paris today to a number of businessmen and owners of international maritime firms that own oil supertankers and commercial ships using the canal, Engineer 'Adil pointed out that the improvement work is always aimed at increasing the canal revenues and attracting supertankers. He called on foreign firms to enter into joint enterprises with the Suez Canal to create successful projects. Egypt, he added, is quite qualified for these projects, considering the canal's outstanding and central location, the cheap labor in Egypt compared to European and Asian labor costs, and its moderate weather all year round. [passage omitted]

Asked if the Suez Canal Authority could possibly be among the industrial institutions that will be privatized as part of the state's economic policy, 'Adil said that the Authority has its own regulations that allow it to operate freely. It is a giant Egyptian economic facility that operates with great efficiency, and there is absolutely no plan for it to be privatized. That is because it does not face any problems but, on the contrary, it is serving the national economy, he added.

Asked about the Authority's contribution to the state treasury, Engineer 'Adil pointed out that it ranks second in terms of foreign currency earnings for the state after remittances by Egyptians abroad and before revenues from tourism. He noted that in 1994 the canal revenues will reach \$1.9 billion. [passage omitted]

Asked about the increase in transit tolls for some tankers and the charges for insurance against ship accidents even though there have not been any maritime disasters in the canal, Engineer 'Adil noted that all necessary precautions must be taken to protect the canal from any disaster. The fact that none has happened does not mean that they cannot take place. Therefore, he added, we charge to provide insurance for the Egyptian cities overlooking the canal, the canal water itself, navigation, and for the ships, since any problem facing any ship could obstruct the entire column of ships. He added that the Authority views the interests of the tankers, navigation, and the national interests very objectively and its decisions follow careful studies in which researchers from the Suez Canal Research Center take part.

Human Rights Group Provides Casualty Figures

NC0512205994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Dec 94 p 1

[Report by Majdi Hilmi]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report released by the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] shows that 225 people have been killed in acts of violence between the extremist groups and police forces. The report says that the losses from the attacks on the economic installations during 1993 were \$1 billion. EHRO expects the same losses to occur this year.

The report, which was read by EHRO Secretary General Najjad al-Yar'i during a news conference yesterday,

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notes that the extremist groups have carried out 57 armed attacks during the last 10 months. The police forces only carried out three attacks.

According to the report, the violence by the extremist groups has created tension on all levels. The report says that the security forces' violation of the constitution and laws is the fruit of the continuous application of the state of emergency for the past 13 years. The state of emergency has made the government appear as an armed force facing another armed force, the report adds.

The EHRO report, which was compiled by Hafiz Abu-Sa'dah, chief of EHRO's legal research unit, says that al-Minya has become an example of violence. It says that the continued torture, the hostage-taking policy, collective punishment, the imposition of curfews on towns and villages, and the terrorist operations have all helped spread an atmosphere of fear among the Egyptian intellectuals. The report points out that the security forces have eliminated 150 shops and kiosks in al-Minya, especially in the town of Mallawi, because their owners were accused of cooperating with the extremist groups.

The report cautions against making Egypt another Algeria. It asserts that security measures alone cannot wipe out the phenomenon of violence. The report calls for championing the values of democracy and the freedom of opinion and for allowing for the exchange of powers peacefully.

Najjad al-Yar'i has reiterated that the state is ignoring EHRO's recommendations, which appeared in previous reports. He asked the civilian institutions to discuss and implement these recommendations. Al-Yar'i expects the wave of violence to hit new areas like Suhaj and Bani Suwayf.

Relations With Iraq Reportedly Improving

JN0912095394 *Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic* 9 Dec 94
pp 1, 27

["Exclusive" report by Fathi Khattab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Responsible Egyptian political sources have confirmed to AL-RA'Y that the Egyptian-Iraqi relations will soon witness a positive development and that they expect a tangible improvement in relations between the two countries. The sources also said that the messages exchanged between Cairo and Baghdad via diplomatic channels indicate a serious Iraqi desire to restore diplomatic and economic relations as soon as possible. The cautious Egyptian welcome coincided with an oral message transmitted by Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, to Baghdad. The message conveyed Egyptian satisfaction with Iraq's recent decision to recognize Kuwait. Baghdad voiced its appreciation of the Egyptian position that was declared by President Mubarak in Damascus on the need to discuss means to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and on the firm Egyptian stand supporting the integrity of Iraqi territory.

The reliable sources stressed that Egypt is not following a policy of "permanent estrangement," especially among the Arab brothers, and that the Egyptian call to cleanse the Arab atmosphere starts with Egypt first as it would be illogical for Egypt to seek to restore Arab solidarity while it shuts the doors before improving its normal ties with the brothers.

The sources added that the Egyptian leadership has indeed received in the past few days several messages from the Iraqi leadership conveying the Iraqi view on certain points and issues. The messages included "new and good" positive points that may pave the way for improving ties between Cairo and Baghdad.

The sources strongly denied that the Egyptian reaction toward Iraq is due to influences by other Arab states, which display inflexible positions toward reconciliation with Iraq. They said that Egyptian decisions have always been independent and rational, and neither emotional nor nervy.

The sources added that Egypt believes that its interest are part of the general interests of the Arab nation, which is now in dire need of a return of solidarity and cooperation and the strengthening of bilateral ties as a basis for supporting inter-Arab ties. They said that raising the issue of Arab-Iraqi ties and the discussion of a means to end the suffering of the Iraqi people during the talks between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad also fall within the framework of discussing the means to remove the clouds of crisis and conflict from the Arab atmosphere.

Political observers in Cairo noted that Ambassador Nabil Najm visited the Egyptian Foreign Ministry more than once this week. They said the presence of Ambassador Najm in the corridors of the Foreign Minister is connected to the "reconciliation messages," which were described as "probing messages" aimed at paving the road toward normal relation between Egypt and Iraq. Political quarters expected Baghdad to ask for Cairo's support and coordination to lift the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Saudi Minister Arrives for OAPEC Meeting

LD0812152594 *Riyadh SPA in English* 1227 GMT
8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Dec. 8, SPA—The Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources Hisham Nazir arrived in Cairo on Wednesday night to lead the Saudi delegation to the meeting of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) which will start on Saturday.

He was greeted at the airport by the Egyptian Minister of Petroleum Hamdi al-Banbi, the Saudi charge d'affaires Ambassador Abu Bakr Rafiq, the Saudi permanent representative to the Arab League Ambassador Fu'ad Sadiq

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Mufti, the secretary general of OAPEC, 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Turki and a number of senior officials of the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum.

Minister Nazir told reporters in a statement upon arrival that the annual meeting of the ministerial council will review regular items on its agenda including the budget and the activities of the general secretariat of the OAPEC.

He termed cooperation between the kingdom and Egypt in petroleum field as excellent and expressed satisfaction over the performance on the bilateral relations between the two countries in terms of mutual investment.

Nazir also cited with satisfaction the level of coordination between the Arab members of the OPEC and those of OAPEC. He denied reports that the kingdom has developed a new idea on production policy being pursued by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC.

Writer Assails U.S. Policy on Kuwait, Bosnia

NC0612120694 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASRI in Arabic 30 Nov 94 p 5

[From the "A Moment of Truth" Column by 'Izzat al-Sa'dani: "Long Live Freedom...Long Live Democracy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I do not know why we always put the United States on the head in every crisis affecting our entity as Arabs and Muslims. I do not know why we stand by the United States on every small and major issue and every political move and world crisis while the Americans themselves treat us Muslims and Arabs as second or third class nations.

What we are saying is not out of emotion or anger at the United States' stance toward everything Arab and everything Islamic; it is derived from the bitter reality the Muslims are experiencing worldwide.

The best example for our logical, fair approach is what is now happening in Bosnia, where the Serbs are destroying everything, killing its children, raping its women, displacing its people, and committing heinous carnage against peaceful, unarmed citizens. What has the United States, its allies, NATO, and the United Nations done?

With majestic grandeur, the United States announced that it is unable to halt the Serbian forces' march on the Muslim city of Bihac. U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry said further NATO aircraft flights against the Serb forces in an attempt to save the city would be futile and that the Muslims are unlikely to regain their territory by force.

This is what the U.S. secretary of defense and the United States announced at a time when Serbian forces equipped with the most modern weaponry and the Muslim Bosnian Government forces were engaged in an unequal fight inside Bihac city as thousands of shells fall

on the city, where there are some 2,000 wounded people in hospital without water, medical aid, or even bandages.

But what was the United Nations' stance? The Security Council issued a resolution denouncing the Serb violations and it asked all warring sides for an immediate, unconditional cease-fire.

All this is happening while the Serbian forces continue to tighten their grip on Bihac city and kill its peaceful residents, but no one asks them why.

But when Kuwait cried for help, saying Saddam Husayn was training his troops along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, it was as if Doomsday had come, and the United States intervened with its naval fleets and stealth aircraft. The United States was supported by an urgent Security Council resolution for an immediate, decisive, military intervention to avoid an explosion. The only explanation here is that Kuwait paid billions of dollars for this show of military might, while the Bosnian Government has no dollars or anything.

Yet they say the United States is the country of democracy and freedom in this world, the evidence of which is that it decided to invade Haiti to reinstate, in the name of democracy, its ousted president and restore stability by force. Long live democracy, long live freedom, and long live America.

Libya

Egypt's al-Sharif Comments Upon Departure

NC0612164194 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that he conveyed to brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, President Mubarak's viewpoint on a number of Arab and regional issues; the results of the president's recent European tour, particularly with regard to the Lockerbie crisis; and discussed other issues of mutual interest.

Minister al-Sharif said in statements prior to his departure from Tripoli that he reviewed with brother Col. al-Qadhafi the coordination of Arab stances to confront international and regional issues that concern the future of the Arab nation. He also learned al-Qadhafi's viewpoints on these issues. He added that brother Col. al-Qadhafi asked him to convey a message to President Mubarak in answer to his message. The information minister arrived in Tripoli yesterday.

Joint Protocol With Iran Signed in Tripoli

LD0612202594 Tripoli JANA in English 1827 GMT 6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Kanoun [Dec] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The protocol of

the Arab Libyan-Iranian joint committee, in its 6th session, was signed in Tripoli yesterday.

The protocol was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry and Mining and by brother Hoseyn Kamali the minister of labour and social affairs in Iran. It stipulates the strengthening of the established cooperation between the two countries in various areas for the common benefit of the two friendly nations in the Great Jamahiriya and Iran.

Iran's Kamali on Growing Economic Ties

LD0612223894 Tehran IRNA in English 2029 GMT
6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA—The volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Libya has increased 20 fold over the past 5 years, Iran's minister of labor and social affairs, Hoseyn Kamali, said in Tripoli Tuesday [6 December]. Kamali, currently in Libya to participate in the 6th session of joint Iran-Libya economic commission, made the remark in his meeting with Libyan Prime Minister [as received] 'Abd-al-Majid al-Mabruk al-Qa'ud.

Underlining promotion of bilateral ties, Kamali said Islamic countries who enjoy various social, economic and political potentials should assist each other. The Libyan official referred to Iran and Libya as two important countries having ample grounds for cooperation. Expressing satisfaction with the growing trend of mutual ties, he hoped for the fruitful outcome of the current session of the joint commission.

Al-Mabruk also welcomed the idea of promotion of technical and vocational training projects and said Libya is ready to send a group of students to Iran for technical and vocational training.

Discussion Continues Over Lockerbie Resolution

Daily Blasts U.S., Others

LD0612172694 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT
6 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli al Kanun [Dec] 6 JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan daily 'AL-SHAMS' today published an editorial about the Lockerbie crisis and the American, French and British intransigency and said that the flexibility of the Great Jamahiriya towards the crisis was clear for all to see while the American, British and French refusal was also clear.

The newspaper said that we the Libyans accept all the initiatives which serve to find a solution to the crisis through a justified trial for the two Libyan suspects and to lift the sanctions from the peaceful Libyan people, while the United States and its ally refuse any settlement of the crisis.

The Libyan people do not agree to hand over their citizens to those countries because that is against Libyan law and because those three countries have no agreement with the Jamahiriya to extradite the suspects and implementing adjoining trials for them in addition to the fact that the Jamahiriya does not have diplomatic representation with America or Britain.

The newspaper asserted that the Great Jamahiriya will not compromise on its independence and will not hand over its citizens to the enemies regardless of the cost.

Al-Muntasir Urges UN Mediation

LD0612210494 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2000 GMT
6 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 6 Dec (JANA)—Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation brother 'Umar al-Muntasir in press statements published here yesterday in the British capital reaffirmed that the Great Jamahiriya is not defying the international community, but is asking the latter to ensure justice with regard to the so-called Lockerbie crisis.

He added that the refusal by the United States to respond to the Great Jamahiriya's request to hold the trial of the suspects means an escalation of the situation. He stressed the Great Jamahiriya's wishes to take into account the positive proposals that contribute to the solving of this crisis, and proceeding from our just cause and our right to prove the innocence of the two Libyan citizens. The brother secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation called for the UN secretary general to act as mediator between the parties and to hold direct contacts to discuss the details through which the attempt to arrive at the facts can be made easy.

Butrus-Ghali Invited for Talks

MM0712151594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Dec 94 p 4

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—Sources close to Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi have said that he has sent an invitation to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to visit Libya to discuss the Lockerbie crisis.

Meanwhile, Libyan Justice Minister Muhammad al-Hijazi has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egyptian efforts are continuing to convince France, Britain, and the United States of the Libyan position's flexibility and to urge the United Nations to follow up its resolutions and maintain neutrality toward all the parties.

He added that Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's visit to Libya was very successful and fell within the framework exchanging messages and views

between President Husni Mubarak and President al-Qadhafi over developments in the crisis.

Arab League Supports Tripoli

NC0812185594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1816 GMT
8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Libya's position on the extradition of the two Libyans suspected of blowing up the "Pan American" plane over Scotland in 1989 is established on legal premises.

In a statement today, he said that there are no agreements on the exchange of defendants between Libya and the Western countries involved in the Lockerbie crisis. He added: In spite of this, Libya has made proposals—backed and supported by the Arab League—in which Libya accepts the jurisdiction of a Scottish court, agrees to have this trial run by Scottish judges, and accepts the application of Scottish laws.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say that Libya is demanding that the two suspects not be tried in any of the countries involved in the crisis and pointed out that Libya believes that they could be tried on the premises of the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in The Hague without that court having anything to do with the trial. He said that Libya proposed the ICJ because it is an international center and stressed that Libya would accept the court's ruling.

It is recalled that Scottish law permits three alternatives: guilty, not guilty, or not proven, while English law allows two alternatives: guilty or not guilty.

DPRK Envoy Praises Efforts

LD0512183594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio
Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture this morning received North Korea's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriya.

During the meeting, the two men discussed various aspects of information and cultural cooperation between the Great Jamahiriya and North Korea and means to promote them to the common interests of the brotherly peoples in the two countries.

During the meeting the Korean ambassador also expressed his country's support for all the initiatives put forward by the Great Jamahiriya in order to find a peaceful and just solution to the so-called Lockerbie affair. He also expressed North Korea's people and government pride in the constant human stances taken by the brother leader of the revolution regarding freedom and liberation causes in the world; he also praised the relations between the Great Jamahiriya and North Korea stressing that they contribute greatly to establishing peace and security in the worked and facing up to imperialist policies aimed at dominating peoples' resources all over the world. He stressed the continuity of the constant principles of North Korea's foreign policy in support of freedom causes in the world and combating imperialism.

On his part the secretary of the General People Committee for Information and Culture praised the relations between the Great Jamahiriya and North Korea stressing the need to bolster and develop them in order to achieve the two friendly peoples in the Great Jamahiriya and North Korea.

The Korean ambassador renewed the invitation by the chairman of the North Korean information committee to the secretary for the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture to visit North Korea.

Kuwait

Official Denies Flights Resumed With Jordan

JN0912112694 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 5 Dec 94
p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Badr 'Isa al-Matar, director of Administrative Affairs at the Civil Aviation General Directorate, has denied a report attributed to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY and published in AL-WATAN on Thursday [1 December] on the resumption of flights between Kuwait and Jordan.

Al-Matar stressed that the civil aviation authorities in Kuwait have not agreed to resume the Jordanian airline's flights to Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Denounces Iranian 'Interference' in Gulf

JN0812190294 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
6 Dec 94 p 9

[Editorial: "Exposed Iranian Game"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since Iran was afflicted with its current regime—which thrives on oppression, persecution, and arbitrariness and on exporting crises and terrorism to other nations—Iran has been suffering from terrible political isolation and a severe economic crisis. The Iranians can no longer endure the consequences of this crisis. It is no secret to those watching developments in Iran that the fascist regime in Iran is now playing an exposed game, which is not altogether new. The Iranian regime resorts to this game whenever it feels that it is about to collapse. This game depends on creating crises with its neighbors to distract the Iranian public's attention from its economic problems. The episodes of this game do not end because the wind of opposition is still blowing at the regime from all sides.

Because the regime seized power by force without popular will, it is trying to keep its shaky throne by force. It is not strange for this regime, therefore, to aim its heavy weapons at the opposition, in an attempt to delay its inevitable doom. It is also not strange for this regime to quell the successive demonstrations which break out every now and then in Iranian cities. The last of these demonstrations was the one in the city of Esfahan, when Iranians were protesting the deterioration of their living and economic conditions. In light of these facts, it is not strange for this regime to interfere in the affairs of others to distract the Iranian people's attention from their miserable conditions, and this is what is happening on the ground.

The Iranian regime seeks to prolong its disputes with its neighbors so as to evade responsibility for the assassination crimes it is committing against its domestic opponents and to distract the Iranian public's attention from these crimes. Evidence of this is that the United Arab

Emirates [UAE] islands dispute should not have taken such a long period of to-ing and fro-ing. It is a clear issue that should have been settled through negotiations a long time ago. The UAE has repeatedly called for negotiations to end this crisis. However, the Iranian regime, in line with its exposed maneuvers and ploys, wants to prolong this crisis to distract the attention of the Iranians from their domestic problems. This game has turned into common practice. Recently, the Iranian regime has been searching for any superficial, emergent dispute within the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in an attempt to disturb the fraternal relations existing between the GCC states and ignite differences between them. When Qatar withdrew from the recent ministerial council of the GCC interior ministers on account of a minor dispute over the clauses of a security agreement, the Iranian regime raised a hue and cry over this withdrawal. It also employed its media trumpets against the kingdom and the GCC. This conduct does not reflect any moral integrity. It is only an attempt by the Iranian regime to absorb the seething anger in the hearts of its people from the severe living and economic crises they are experiencing on the other.

Yemen

Forces Reportedly Recapture Positions From Saudis

JN0912063694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600
GMT 9 Dec 94

[Report by Faysal Mukarram in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yemeni Vice President Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi has said that the Border Guard Forces, which are affiliated with the Yemeni Armed Forces, have recaptured positions and posts in the Sa'dah Governorate, in northern Yemen. Maj. Gen. Hadi noted that three Yemeni soldiers were wounded in this operation. The Yemeni vice president, who was addressing a graduation ceremony at the Police Officers Higher Institute in Sanaa, said that Yemen is keen to solve border problems with Saudi Arabia through peaceful, fraternal dialogue to guarantee both countries' historical and legal rights. [passage omitted]

Ranking government sources in Sanaa said a telephone conversation was held between Yemeni Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil and his Saudi counterpart Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to discuss the problem on both countries' border and to contain the difference through peaceful means, discuss the problem and to solve the problem as soon as possible.

Foreign Minister al-Iryani Meets Envoys at UN

JN0812203194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received separately the ambassadors of the permanent

member states of the UN Security Council. They are U.S. Ambassador David Newton, UK Ambassador Robert [last name indistinct], PRC Ambassador Li Liugen, French Ambassador (Marcel Lubell), and Russian Ambassador (Igor Ivashinko).

He discussed with each of them separately bilateral relations between our country and their friendly countries and the developments between our country and Saudi Arabia.

Sudanese Presidential Adviser Continues Visit

Meets With Salih, Vice President

JN0812204194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, together with Vice President brother Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, received brother Staff Brigadier General Fathi Hasan Salah, adviser to Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The Sudanese envoy conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother the Sudanese president on bilateral relations and ways of bolstering

them. The message also deals with issues and developments of interest to the two sisterly countries, especially the latest developments in the Horn of Africa and our country's mediation efforts between Sudan and (?Egypt). [Words indistinct] possible efforts to support security, stability, and peace in the Horn of Africa.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and [name indistinct] adviser to the president. On the Sudanese side, the meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-'Umar al-Sayyid Taha, the Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

Departs Sanaa

JN0912125894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Staff Brigadier General Fathi Hasan Salah, the Sudanese president's envoy, left Sanaa today after a brief visit to our country.

During the visit, he conveyed a message to brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. [passage omitted]

Saddam Reportedly Accepts Yeltsin-Brokered Terms

MM0812154794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Dec 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Aziz Informs Kozyrev of Iraq's Agreement for Sanctions To Be Eased Gradually"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Moscow, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Moscow yesterday. Russian sources said that the talks focused on discussing "ways of achieving a final solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis."

Meanwhile Western diplomatic sources have said that Baghdad has agreed to "cooperate fully" with the Russian plan aimed at easing the sanctions imposed on Iraq gradually. The Western sources said that Tariq 'Aziz informed Kozyrev in Moscow yesterday of this agreement.

'Aziz arrived in Moscow on Tuesday, carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn in reply to a message that he had received from Russian President Boris Yeltsin earlier in the month.

The Western sources say that Yeltsin submitted three proposals:

1. Iraq's full compliance with the UN request for information about the sources and names from which Iraq acquired the substances and equipment which are likely to be used to develop and produce mass-destruction weapons. This is the only remaining problem in the UN program designed to destroy Iraqi mass-destruction weapons.

2. A major improvement in human rights in Iraq. This could include initiating a dialogue with Kurdish and Shiite opposition groups, releasing some prisoners, and returning "missing" Kuwaiti persons. Because such steps would help to improve the situation.

3. Iraq's swift cooperation in the process of demarcating the new border with Kuwait.

'Aziz is expected to ask Moscow to send a special mission to Iraq to study the extent of Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

'Udayy Saddam Husayn Reportedly Meets Hamas Envoy

JN0912111594 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Dec 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Western sources have revealed that representatives of the Palestinian organization Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] made a secret visit to Iraq three weeks ago. During that visit, they held a series of meetings, particularly with 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and officials in the Military Intelligence Department.

It has been learned that the discussion with the son of the Iraqi president focused on means to use the pro-Hamas foreign networks to help Iraq break the international sanctions by establishing private companies for that purpose. In return, Baghdad promised to give aid.

National Assembly Delegation Returns From Russia

JN0812152994 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Dec, 8, INA—The delegation of the National Assembly headed by chief of the trade and agricultural affairs, Khattab 'Abd-al-Karim, returned to Baghdad after its participation in the meeting of the third conference of the Russian Agricultural Party which was recently ended in Moscow.

Mr. Khattab told INA that the delegation held several meetings with many Russian political and parliamentary figures who expressed their solidarity with the Iraqi people in facing the embargo imposed on them.

The conferees asserted the necessity of lifting the oppressive embargo imposed on Iraq and supporting the Iraqi people to overcome their suffering.

Kuwaiti, Saudi Bases Offered to Coalition Protested

JN0712100894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Dec (INA)—Iraq has again protested to the Arab League the facilities that are being offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the U.S., British, and French aircraft in their violations of the Iraqi airspace, which threatens Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter addressed yesterday to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent envoy said that between 26 and 30 November, the hostile aircraft continued to violate the Iraqi airspace and conducted 391 hostile sorties out of bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi envoy included a list detailing these violations.

Article on 'Leaked' U.S. 'Secret' Defense Report

JN0812085994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 23 Nov 94 p 3

[Article by Nawwaf Abu-al-Hayja: "Our Crossing and Their Blockade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the beginning of the general collapse of the U.S.-Zionist blockade of Iraq and the fact that the state of dissolution within the hostile coalition has ceased to be a "secret whisper" and is now in the open and inside the UN Security Council itself, the U.S. Administration has purposely leaked information from what it terms "The U.S. Defense Report for the Years 1996-2000". The part of the report that was leaked

carries the title: "Plan of Potential Scenarios—Defense Planning Guidelines". The United States claims the report was prepared on 23 May 1994.

The part leaked from the plan, or the "top secret report", is intended to frighten the Arab Gulf Countries, about Iraq in particular, in order to justify the continued U.S. military presence in the region and the process of sucking and plundering whatever is left of Arab wealth, in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, in particular, and the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula in general. The plan, which also aims at continuing the blockade of Iraq, uses old justifications and excuses in order to preserve the missing or collapsing cohesion of the Zionist-U.S. alliance, which is hostile to the Arab nation and its legitimate aspirations for pan-Arab awakening, liberation, and unity.

The timing of the publication of this plan in Washington has more than one significance. The fact that the leak took place at the end of October 1994 means the timing was intentional. It followed the crossing crisis the Clinton administration fabricated in order to send more troops to the region, suck away more Arab funds, and try to make up for the domestic setbacks of the U.S. Democrat Party, which Clinton's policy has led to the greatest election defeat since World War II.

But this fabricated scenario cannot be believed for the simple reason that it assumes that Iraq would "carry out a deadly attack with weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and that nuclear weapons would be used at the most critical moment by firing Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles" and so on and so forth to the end of that heresy. We would like to point out here that the scenario deliberately ignores the fact that Iraq has become free of the aforementioned chemical, biological, and ballistic weapons. It is recognized that Iraq does not and will not possess nuclear weapons, under Resolution 687. UN special commissions are still conducting their activities in Iraq with the full cooperation of Iraqi authorities. This recognition has been documented by Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission.

This is where we clearly see the real significance of playing out this piece of theater, or disseminating that part of the report, as we said. We must emphasize a important and significant point here, which is that leakage is a sign of bankruptcy. The dissemination of the report was followed in less than two weeks by several signals. In the UN Security Council on the eve of the debate on the sanctions and the blockade, and following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait in fulfillment of UN Security Council Resolution 833, two connected incidents occurred with amazing coincidence. First, the U.S. Administration's desperate reaction through the viper pin Madeleine Albright spotted during her meeting with the Iraqi deputy prime minister in her capacity as president of the Security Council for November 1994 and the statement by her official spokesman that she purposely did that in reaction to her description as a viper ridicule and pity.

Second: The things which the U.S. ambassador produced during the review session, such as videos and photos by U.S. satellites and spy planes of the Republican Palace and other Iraqi official and public establishments to justify the U.S. Administration's persistence in blockading Iraq on the basis that whoever builds palaces and similar things under blockade conditions is bound to have sufficient funds to feed the Iraqi people.

A quick glance at these two incidents, or signals, fills us with pity and disgust that this whole poor world is subject to such a mentality, indeed such a mentality, which possesses the most powerful weapons of mass destruction, controls decisionmaking in international forums, and wants to generalize the U.S. model of life all over the universe!!

While nobody in the world with any slight degree of intelligence and sound judgment can respect such a mentality, it is most regrettable and contemptible that this mentality still finds people who are ready to support it, try to gain its favor, and seek every means to please it, perhaps for no reason other than the desire to appease.

At any rate, this is not the main subject. What applies to this situation is the verse by the great Arab poet al-Mutanabbi: The little one admires its small ones, and the big one slights his great deeds.

The main subject is the state of hysteria which has marked the behavior of some people and evoked ridicule and disapproval in the most important international forum. Perhaps, understanding the existing conditions, and the developments which are bound to follow, will remove some of the astonishment which was created by the behavior of the representative of the greatest superpower in the world today. That behavior was an indication of the dilemma represented by the collapse of the dishonorable and illegitimate dreams which were entertained by the crazy mentality which sought to dominate the universe. That mentality envisioned or imagined the collapse of Iraq and the Iraqis. It dreamed of dividing Iraq and killing its spirit of awakening and construction; a spirit which is backed by thousands of years of accomplishment, creativity, invention, and the spread of true freedom and peace all over the world; a spirit of steadfastness which is derived from and inspired by a historic and unique leadership which does not possess palaces in Marbeya [name as transliterated], or on the shores of Lake Lemman in Switzerland, or in California, or in Monte Carlo, or South Wales, or London. This is a leadership which has great palaces in the hearts of millions of Arabs from the ocean to the gulf; a leadership whose greatest palace is: passing the crossing phase with an invincible individual who builds, develops, and creates while under siege; an individual who believes in the future and who is the true inheritor of the earth, because he has inherited the most sacred, greatest, and noblest human mission of all; namely, the mission of the Arab Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him; the mission of love, correct guidance,

justice, and peace. These are the most important, greatest, and ever-lasting palaces of the warrior, Saddam Husayn. It is to build a well- fortified human being in Iraq, and to spread in the Arab World this living example and unique model, which is imponderable to the enemies and their evil plans and aims. What angers these enemies and makes them lose their senses is construction. More construction means our crossing and their blockade. Go ahead with the building of Iraq, the nation, under the leader, O Iraqis and Arabs.

Paper on 'U.S. Plans' To Destabilize Arab World

JN0812203994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
27 Nov 94 p 1

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information: "U.S. Stability and Justice Plans in the Arab World!!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is becoming clear day after day that U.S. claims about implementing plans to ensure stability in the Arab region according to the principles of justice and human rights are mere lip service, which conceals dirty imperialist aims, intentions, and interests. One model before us today is U.S. handling of the Palestine question. As the saying goes, the party is over and the curtains have been drawn at the White House. And now, this model has entered the phase of dissolution to end up in the massacre of Palestinians at the hands of Palestinian police, thus sparing the Zionist entity the need to fight.

Regarding other Arab countries, Washington is exerting its maximum effort in order to preserve stability and the principles of justice by tightening the siege on Libya and beginning siege measures against Sudan. The siege of these two countries is essential for organizing the conditions and security of other Arab rulers in North Africa. Washington also considers the continuation of the embargo on Iraq essential in order to implement its projects in the Arab East, especially the conclusion of separate peace treaties between the Zionist enemy and several Arab rulers which are still under preparation!!

Washington's aims in the region are obvious. But we call upon those who still trust U.S. promises to look at what the United States has done deliberately in the Arab homeland, such as striking at Iraq, gravely undermining its military power and economy, and continuing its siege, liquidating the Palestine question by turning Palestinian struggle against the Zionist enemy to bloody fighting between the Palestinians themselves, giving the Zionist entity a free hand to strike at Lebanon whenever it wishes, besieging Libya, sparking a sedition in southern Sudan and beginning siege measures against Sudan, and igniting a civil war in Egypt and another in Algeria.

This is what the United States has done and is doing to the Arabs. All these are conditions for safeguarding the security of the Zionist entity, continuing the plunder of Arab oil, and maintaining U.S. agents in the region. The masses of the Arab nation are waking up today to foil the U.S. plan of hegemony over the Arab homeland. Victory and the crossing will begin with Iraq steadfastness and struggle, God willing. March ahead.

Government Communique Affirms Commitment to DOP*TA0812163094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 8 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has affirmed that it will pursue the negotiations with the Palestinians in accordance with its commitment to the Declaration of Principles [DOP], will take action in accordance with its stipulations and the lessons learned so far, and will continue its efforts to resume the negotiations with Syria.

A communique summing up the debate about the next stage in the talks with the Palestinians states that the continuation of the peace process and the fight against extreme Islamic terror are the main political and security objectives of the government's policy. The government will demand from the PLO and from the Palestinian Authority that they fight terror, as they undertook in the DOP and in the letters exchanged between the PLO leader and the prime minister.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Ministers Sarid and Tzaban abstained in the vote, while Minister Aloni absented herself because in her opinion the cabinet resolution should have given more emphasis to the opinion, the resolution also ignores the need to evacuate settlements.

Most Ministers Said To Favor Changes in Oslo Accord*TA0912122894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 5 Dec 94 p 1*

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A majority of ministers who have gone on record favor adjustments in the Oslo accord, but they are divided on what those modifications should be.

Most suggest it is impossible to reconcile two provisions of the Oslo accord: IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment from Arab population centers in the territories, and retaining all the settlements in their present locations.

Economics Minister Shim'on Shetrit summarized the importance of yesterday's cabinet session: "We have come to the point where clarity, not ambiguity, is needed, if we want to know where we are headed in this peace process."

The cabinet will reconvene in special session on Wednesday [7 December], so that all the ministers will have an opportunity to present their views.

The ministers who have indicated they favor redeployment while relocating at least some settlements are Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Agriculture Minister

Ya'akov Tzur, Immigration Minister Ya'ir Tzaban, and Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am.

Those who have so far made it clear they oppose redeployment are Shetrit and Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently seemed to put himself in this category, when he said that he favors redeployment for the three days surrounding Palestinian elections. However, he immediately disavowed the remark amid criticism by Palestinians that he favored symbolic, not genuine redeployment, and this violated the Oslo accord.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni has indicated she prefers the Palestinians holding elections, and then moving to final status talks. In this, she is joined by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

In contrast, both Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Police Minister Moshe Shahal say they believe Israel must move ahead on redeployment, while insisting this can be done without moving any settlements.

The following ministers, all of whom are usually associated with Rabin's positions, have so far refused comment: Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, Health Minister Efrayim Sneh, Transport Minister Yisra'el Qeysar, and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

The views of Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein and Justice Minister David Liba'i are also unknown.

Rabin: Syria Allows 'Terrorists' To Attack Via Lebanon*TA0912061394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 9 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said it is clear to him that Syria is permitting terrorists to carry out attacks from Lebanon. Talking to correspondents following the Labor Bureau meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday, the prime minister said that the Syrians have for the past 20 years been strictly upholding the agreement with Israel not to permit terrorist activities from Syrian soil, but that wherever they do not have agreements with us on terrorist activity, they do not prevent it.

[Begin Rabin recording] The Syrian position is clear, it remains unchanged. It makes demands in the negotiations with Israel, and, in the meantime, the gap between us has not yet been bridged, and I do not know whether it will be bridged. I hope the Syrians will take steps to permit the bridging of the gaps. Syria will not permit Lebanon to negotiate separately.

Who is perpetrating the terrorism? Among the Palestinians, radical Islamic bodies—Hamas [Islamic Resistance

Movement] and Islamic Jihad—as well as the Rejectionist Front, whose commands are stationed in Damascus. Who perpetrates terrorism from Lebanon? The radical Islamic body, Hizballah, and sometimes also the Palestinian rejectionist organizations. It is clear to me prevent it from doing that. Where we do have agreements with Syria, it strictly upholds them. [end recording]

Rabin Rejects Druze Demands; Shahal Continues Talks

TA0812173494 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister announced that he will not comply with the demands of the Druze, even if this brings about the government's downfall. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin stated as much in a meeting with Ministers Shohat and Shahal, coalition chairman Eli Dayan, and Druze Labor Knesset Member [MK] Salah Tarif. The latter said that if the problem is not solved he will join the vote of no confidence in the government on 12 December.

Our correspondent points out that the prime minister instructed Finance Minister Avraham Shohat not to attend a meeting scheduled for tomorrow with representatives of the Druze community. Instead, the negotiations will be conducted by Minister Shahal and MK Tarif.

Peres Appoints Adviser for Relations With Arabs

TA0812183894 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Dec 94*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has decided to set up a new position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He appointed Mr. Yoram Katz, former head of the Labor Party's Arab department, as his personal adviser for Israeli-Arab relations. THE PAN-ORAMA weekly, which will publish this report in tomorrow's issue of the periodical, adds that the letter of appointment was handed to Mr. Katz yesterday.

NEQUDA Press Review for Nov

TA0812092094

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a review of the November issue of NEQUDA, the monthly Hebrew-language magazine published by the Society for the Advancement of Settlement and Absorption in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Jordan Valley, which serves as the political organ of the Jewish settlers in the territories. These reports include summaries of all articles, reports, interviews, commentaries, and other items with a bearing on political affairs published in NEQUDA.

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IN LIEU OF AN EDITORIAL

The column, appearing on pages 12 and 13, consists of three essays, each about 400 words long. The first, entitled "To Save Netzarim," claims that the public debate over the future of this Gaza Strip settlement "reflects the spiritual and ideological condition of the State of Israel, which is usually low." Envy and bitterness drive many kibbutzniks to join the campaign to uproot it because Netzarim is the "antithesis" of the old-time kibbutz movement. They should remember, however, that by inciting the soldiers not to risk their lives to defend it "they are sowing the seeds of their refusal to defend Rosh Haniqra and Manara tomorrow." The abandonment of army positions in Netzarim, as well as in Judaea, Samaria, and Lebanon, inspired by the top military echelon "raises serious questions about our ability to defend other trenches and positions in the future and, consequently, about the will to uphold a Jewish state in Eretz Yisra'el, even within shrunken boundaries." The essay ends by urging yeshiva and religious seminar students to pack up their belongings and move to Netzarim which, more than any other settlement today, symbolizes "Zionist endurance."

The second essay, called "A Source of Strength for All of Us," marks the 20th anniversary of the struggle that led to the establishment of Elon More, the first-ever settlement. Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister at the time, tried to fight the settlers and their followers, but ultimately desisted in the face of their "steadfast spirit and determined will." His revenge came 20 years later in the form of the Oslo agreement. However, if the people are once again gripped by the fire that burned in their hearts then "nobody will dare or be able" to harm the endeavor begun by a handful of men.

The third essay, named "Let Them Die With Dignity," deals with a recent television drama reconstructing the trial of Rudolph Kastner, a Hungarian Jew who was accused of betraying Jewish partisan fighters to the Nazis in World War II.

THIS IS HOW WE WILL PREVENT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN STATE

In this 2,000-word article and map on pages 28 and 29, Pinhas Wallerstein, chairman of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council, outlines his "ladder theory" to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea

and Samaria. Wallerstein says that decisions and plans must be based on several basic premises: In the Oslo agreement Israel relinquished "the exclusive presence of its security forces in Arab population centers"; settlers are not soldiers and must be able to lead a normal life; control of areas not circulated by settlers will be lost; at all times Israel must retain responsibility for roads, water, and electricity; and infrastructure used only by Jews will come under terrorist attacks and will not survive. Consequently, "it is our duty to plan and provide regional services in a bid to maintain the situation, whereby our very presence and mobility hinders an Arab territorial contiguity and, as a result, the establishment of an independent and contiguous Palestinian state in the future."

Noting that his proposal for the development of the region could be applied to all areas of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, Wallerstein proceeds to elaborate on its implementation in the Binyamin area, where there are two blocs of settlements, in the west and in the east. Even if they continue to develop, a large Arab bloc will emerge in the middle which will strive to expand in all directions. "The presence of Jewish settlements and roads linking them will, in fact, limit the sphere of influence of this Arab bloc," which must be dissected by roads linking the two Jewish blocs. North-south roads controlled by Israel ("side rails") will curtail Palestinian expansion, while east-west roads ("rungs") will dissect the Arab bloc.

The article ends by saying that although building roads and settlements depends on the government's approval, "through our behavior and will to go ahead with out lives, emphasizing those middle areas as much as possible, we will oblige the authorities to act in this direction."

GETTING OUT OF THE ABYSS OF REJECTION AND DESPAIR

This 4,000-word article by Yo'el Bin-Nun on pages 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, profusely spiced with quotes from the Bible and other ancient scriptures, reviews the Israel-Jordan peace treaty noting that although it entailed the concession of historical areas of Eretz Yisra'el, it should be seen as "a right move in the present circumstances, and even as a possible aperture for the partial salvation of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza." He, nevertheless, notes that these concessions will be binding as long as the international conditions that led to the signing of the treaty prevail, but once they change drastically, "such as when 'Arafat's PLO leadership falls and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] seizes power, or, alternatively, the moment the Hashemite royal family steps down from power, this agreement will no longer be binding."

Bin-Nun then proceeds to enumerate the advantages of the treaty. In the wake of the treaty, Jordan became a buffer between Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and Israel, which "provides an opportunity for stability and peace."

The treaty also curtails Syria's and the PLO's maneuvering room, enables the government to negotiate with them "from a more solid position of power," and is an official pronouncement that "there is no Arab sovereignty west of the Jordan River." It creates a channel for the emotions, songs, and mysticism Israelis harbor about peace, which may enable less pressured and more rational and sober negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians. Finally, the peace treaty "may bring us closer to the Gil'ad and Bashan areas" from which we have been kept away for 46 years by reviving some of the Zionist ideas discussed at the time with King 'Abdallah, Husayn's grandfather, before he was murdered on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

WHY I ABSTAINED

In this 2,000-word article on pages 40 and 41, National Religious Party Knesset Member Hanan Porat explains the reasons for his decision to abstain in the Knesset vote on the Israel-Jordan peace treaty. One reason was "the voice of Eretz Yisra'el calling us from distant times and places. Our right to Eretz Yisra'el and adherence to it is not arbitrary or a few decades old, but was promised to us by divine providence," and its boundaries were set in the Bible. The second reason has to do with the timing of the treaty and the concessions made to attain it. "At a time when the Israeli people were still bleeding and weeping for their dead in recent terror attacks, including the awful, bloody price exacted from us by the bus bombing in Tel Aviv, I could not raise my hand in favor, and that is why I abstained," Porat concludes.

A PRACTICAL POINT

This 6,000-word column on pages 42, 43, 44, and 45 by 'Ami'el Unger consist of six essays. The first essay, entitled "Night in Casablanca," says that Shim'on Peres, who fancies himself a prophet, repeatedly asserts that "there is no going back in history" and that his vision of a prosperous Middle East will come true. Linking economic prosperity to peace is based on the premise that the new wealth will be diverted to civilian purposes and will strengthen the elite classes of society interested in nurturing peace. However, there is no way al-Asad is going to stop building up his army only because the GNP is soaring thanks to Peres' regional bank, and that very same economic prosperity will enable him to finance his growing procurement expenditures.

The second essay, "A Footnote on Creeping Expansion," takes issue with HA'ARETZ correspondent Hana Kim for consistently distorting data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics to support her argument that settlers in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan "have come to terms with their imminent evacuation."

The third essay, "Bibi's Return," hails the reconciliation between the Likud's Binyamin Netanyahu and David Levi, stating that "we all hope that the Likud and the national camp, in general, has learned the price exacted by disunity."

The fourth essay, "The Balloons in the 'Arava Exploded in Washington," deals with the results of the midterm elections in the United States. "Yosi Beilin can scornfully say (and he will yet be forced to eat his words) that Jesse Helms is a single senator and does not call the shots, but Helms will see to it that the issue of aid, which used to be decided by the leaders, will henceforth be decided by U.S. public opinion." In the wake of the endorsement of Proposition 117 in California, there is no tolerance for generosity and giveaways. "Bribes for peace in the Golan, which will include modern weapons, compensation to the evacuated settlers, and candy to al-Asad, will cost a lot of money. For Peres' and Beilin's information, this money will not come from Washington."

The fifth essay, "Decay of the Nation," deals with the Nobel Peace Prize awarded jointly to Yitzhaq Rabin, Shim'on Peres, and Yasir 'Arafat. Noting the "barbarous decision" to award such a prize to 'Arafat, the essay likens it to the prize granted in 1926 to the foreign ministers of Britain, France, and Germany. "Rabin, Peres, and 'Arafat will receive the same standing ovation that was once bestowed on Chamberlain, Streseman, and Briand. However, when the echoes of the applause die down, they will face the judgment of history just as they did."

The sixth essay, entitled "A Small Country for a Small People," criticizes recent calls to revise the issue of aliyah in view of Israel's shrinking size following the peace agreements, saying the day is not far off when the same circles will call for reducing the birth rate among Jews, particularly religious ones, because they tend to have large families.

REALITY DOES NOT FEAR CONTRADICTIONS

This 3,000-word article on pages 46, 47, and 48 by Menahem Fruman takes issue with the critics of the clause in the Israel-Jordan peace treaty giving priority to Jordan at the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem, especially at the Temple Mount. Quoting the Jewish philosopher Maimonides, Rabbi Kook, and ancient scriptures,

Fruman writes: "When I hear observant Jews saying that even if we make concessions in other places, we must forcefully insist on our full right to the Temple Mount, the thought that comes to my mind is: Maybe it should be the other way around? Perhaps we should insist with all our might on living in all of Eretz Yisra'el seeing that on the Temple Mount the situation is easier? After all, what is it that we and they care about on the Temple Mount? The spiritual aspect. It is much easier to reconcile two spiritual elements than conflicting material interests. At the moment, what we must do with regard to the Temple Mount is to launch a massive information campaign throughout the nation. This would be founded on a new and noble basis, if Judaism were to award a 'spiritual place' in its sacred shrine to another faith, to Islam."

WITH WISDOM RATHER THAN BY FORCE

This 1,000-word article on pages 50 and 51 by Tzvi Mozes notes that the Oslo agreement and the peace treaty with Jordan are about peace among politicians rather than among people. Rabin and Peres have proven their ability to make a breakthrough, but what we need to strengthen these agreements is a strong leadership, something these two men can hardly deliver. "Al-Asad must be confronted by a strong and fresh peace leadership. Therefore, they would be acting wisely if they were to quit while they were still at the top." The settlers, on the other hand, must undergo a psychological and ideological revolution and position themselves at the head of the peace camp.

Mozes calls for the establishment of a "Gush Emunim of peace" made up of all the bodies that support keeping the settlements under Israeli sovereignty. This movement "will agree to a territorial compromise in the Golan and in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Its role will be to identify irrational elements who do not adhere to the ideology of peace and to replace dangerous euphoria with realistic peace optimism. The movement will embrace an ideology of peace, of constructive peace, as a value rather than as an obsession. The movement psychological and educational preparation of the peoples for the expected change."

King Comments Before Leaving for UK, Morocco*JN0812200694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said: As an Arab, a Hashemite, and Muslim I pray to God to help the next Islamic summit in the Kingdom of Morocco to be at the suitable and required level, so that the Islamic nation will be able to realize its objectives in these difficult circumstances and in face of various dangers.

King Husayn said this in an interview with our correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab before his majesty left for London to attend the graduation ceremony of His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn. After the graduation, his majesty will leave for Morocco to attend the Islamic summit conference that will be held there next week.

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Your majesty the king, what is the importance of the Netherlands queen's visit to Jordan, and its impact on giving prominence to the European role in the post-peace stage?

[Husayn] The visit was decided some time ago. In fact it was a very successful visit. For me, her majesty the Netherlands queen, the family there, in addition to the government and people have always shown understanding of our positions. Even during difficult circumstances, they have been friends to us, and we fully appreciate this. The visit was successful, and I believe it was a new step toward entrenching bilateral relations and the best cooperation, in addition to the Netherlands role within the EC and our eagerness to enhance our ties with our friends in Europe in the future.

[Dhiyab] Your majesty, you are one of the key leaders in the Islamic summit. What are you taking with you to the summit and what do you expect from it?

[Husayn] In my capacity as an Arab, Muslim, and Hashemite, I pray to God with all the sons of this Islamic nation to help this summit to be at the suitable and required level so that the leaders and Islamic nation will be able to realize their objectives in these difficult circumstances and in face of the dangers that are posed from all directions. I think that the previous summit conferences have been good, but personally, I feel that God has not helped us to reach the situation that should be reached. We pray God that this time will be different, and that it will be a beginning of a new situation in our Islamic world.

[Dhiyab] Your majesty, what about your major concern, which is Arab relations and solidarity?

[Husayn] God willing, we will move forward and realize cooperation and integration. We pray God to provide us with many opportunities to meet with our brother leaders, probably during the days ahead of us, God willing, and we hope that this will be a good start.

[Dhiyab] Thank you sir.

[Husayn] God bless you. I entrust to God's care the sons of this homeland, the members of this big family of which we are proud to belong. As a father, I have a responsibility toward 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn who will be graduated from the military college to have the honor of joining the Armed Forces, like his brothers, fathers, and grandfathers. Then I will attend the Islamic summit. We pray God that the next days will be good, and that we will meet again and begin reconstruction on the most solid basis. The population census will be conducted soon, and I hope that everyone will play his role so that we will be able—on all levels—to deal with, and properly plan for, the future concerning all aspects of life—education, culture, economy, and even the political dimension, and the development of our democratic march, and then to go ahead in building the promising future. All this requires that all be at the expected level, and God willing the results will be good. There is also the budget and God willing it will be a good start. After the return, we all should reconsider our situation and lay down more foundations for a new start in the full sense of the word. I hope I will meet with all my kinsfolk, loved ones, and brothers, and I always pray to God to take care of them and that they will remain the ones whose heads are high and bow only to God Alnughty. [end recording]

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman this evening for the United Kingdom to attend the graduation ceremony of His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn from the British Sandhurst Military College. His majesty will then leave for the Kingdom of Morocco to participate in the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca, where he will deliver a speech.

His majesty was seen off by His Highness Prince Muhammad, the personal representative of his majesty the king; Her Highness Princes Taghrid; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Her Highness Princess Tharwat; Her Highness Princess Basmah; and their royal highnesses the princes and princess.

Also present at the airport were Acting Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, his majesty the king's advisers, the special adviser to his highness the crown prince, ministers, Amman governor and mayor, ranking officials of the Royal Hashemite Court, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, commanders of the Public Intelligence and Public Security, and Civil Defense.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, prime minister; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Royal Hashemite Court chief; and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty the king's adviser left with his majesty.

His Highness Prince Hasan, during the presence of the cabinet members, took the oath as regent during his majesty's absence.

Joint Palestinian Committee on Displaced Convenes*JN0712183394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee on displaced people began at the Foreign Ministry today to discuss a number of issues related to displaced people.

The two sides discussed several issues in this field, especially the database and figures concerning categories of displaced people, entrenching their rights, and working out a concept between the two sides on the stages of the return of the displaced.

Engineer 'Asim Ghawshah, director of the Palestinian Affairs Department and member of the Jordanian delegation to the committee, said these meetings were in preparation for the meetings of the four-party committee which comprises Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, and Israel. The committee is responsible for discussing the subject of the return of displaced people in light of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which are based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

He said Israel and Palestine will call for holding meetings of the four-party committee during the next stage. He added that the two sides agreed to convene a tripartite meeting between Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt before the convocation of the four-party committee in order to work out a joint concept, coordinate positions, and crystallize the database on the number of displaced people and the mechanism of their return.

Talks Detailed

JN0812123794 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 8-9 Dec 94 p 3

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] High-level Jordanian-Palestinian talks opened at the Foreign Ministry yesterday in preparation for the meetings of the four-party committee on the repatriation of the displaced Palestinians. The four-party committee was set up in accordance with Declaration of Principles [DOP] agreement signed in Oslo between the PLO and Israel.

During the meeting, issues related to the repatriation of the displaced Palestinians were discussed in detail. The conferees agreed on some points related to the definition of the displaced and the statistical data on them. They have also agreed on approving the DOP as the legal term of reference to authenticate the number of the displaced.

Walid Zaqqut, media spokesman of the Palestinian delegation to the talks, said that the Palestinian and Jordanian sides have reached an agreement on the definition of the displaced. They were defined as:

1. The Palestinian citizens from the West Bank, including Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, who were temporarily outside the homeland before the outbreak of the 1967 war in pursuit of education, work, or treatment, or for visits, or any other purposes.
2. The Palestinian residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who were forced to leave their homeland during and after the 1967 war.

3. The Palestinians who left their homeland while bearing Israeli identification cards, whether they were deportees or those who lost their permits and cards or lost the right to return due to Israeli measures.

Zaqqut said that agreement was also reached on the database and the statistics related to the displaced and that it was agreed to update these data by all the parties concerned with the issue of the displaced.

He said that the meeting discussed the primary figures of the displaced and it was agreed that the parties concerned with conducting censuses are Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine. They have also agreed to ask the Israeli authorities to submit all data they have on the number of the displaced in accordance with the resolutions of the four-party committee on the displaced, which convened in Oslo in 1993. They have also agreed to call on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the Norwegian (Savo) Corporation to submit their data on the issue.

Zaqqut said the Jordanian and Palestinian sides stressed the importance of legally confirming these figures. Therefore, he added, the Palestinian-Israeli DOP; the international law; and the Human Rights Charter, which guarantees Man's right to repatriation; and UN Resolution 237 on the displaced were approved as the legal terms of reference.

The two sides are scheduled to resume their meetings today at the Foreign Ministry to complete the discussion of the agenda issues, including the mechanism of the next bilateral meeting and that of the trilateral meeting, which includes Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt. The trilateral meeting will discuss working out a common database on the number of the displaced and the mechanism of their return before the meeting of the four-party committee, which is charged with solving the issue of displaced Palestinians.

For his part, Engineer 'Asim Ghawshah, director of the Palestinian Affairs Directorate and member of the Jordanian delegation, has said that these meetings come in preparation for the four-party committee, made up of Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, and Israel and charged with discussing the issue of the return of the displaced in light of the Palestinian-Israeli DOP and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which is based on international legitimacy resolutions.

Paper on Nonpublication of King Husayn Interview

JN0612164294

[FBIS Editorial Report] Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic carries on page 5 in its 7 December issue a 1,000-word report by the paper's Arab affairs editor, whose name is not given, on Jordanian-Saudi relations and how U.S. President Bill Clinton and Spanish King Juan Carlos, during their recent trips to the Middle East, failed to convince Saudi Arabia to mend its relations with Jordan.

The report says that Saudi Arabia's refusal to improve relations with Jordan also has "a clear impact on Kuwait, the small neighbor. Although there were many positive signs in Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, the resumption of these relations still depends on a Saudi decision and not on a Kuwaiti decision as some believe."

The paper then reviews the power struggle between two trends in Kuwait: a pro-Saudi trend led by Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, and the one led by Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah which seeks to distance Kuwait from Saudi Arabia and the United States and have it enjoy some independent decisionmaking.

The paper adds: "This is why Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad strongly supported the initiative by Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, to conduct a lengthy interview with King Husayn that would be the first step toward a new stage in Kuwaiti-Jordanian relations," and that after al-Jarallah had conducted the interview which took place on the eve of the Iraqi troop mobilization on the Kuwaiti borders, he "received a phone call from Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah urging him not to publish the interview." The paper adds "that al-Jarallah had no other alternative but to stop publication of the interview," which he had previously announced and on which he had briefly reported. The report adds that "until now, al-Jarallah has not met with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah to seek clarification about the reasons for this piece of advice which came at the last moment."

The paper says: "Some believe that Sa'd al-'Abdallah does not want an initiative of such magnitude for opening a new page in the relations between Jordan and Kuwaiti to be taken without his knowledge," while others say that the issue is not a quarrel between two officials, as some try to portray, but that "this is a Saudi decision because Riyadh believes it is not permissible to open a direct line between Amman and Kuwait without its approval."

Minister Comments on Ship Inspections at al-'Aqabah

JN0812141994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Dec 94 p 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-DUSTUR, PETRA—The House of Representatives held a session yesterday

morning under Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and cabinet members. At the beginning of the session, a number of deputies raised some remarks on price hikes, the conflict in the Republic of Chechnya, and the issue of certain bank employees. The government then replied to questions posed by some deputies. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question by Dr. Bassam al-'Umush on the inspection of ships at al-'Aqabah, the minister of state for foreign affairs said: Jordan has sought and is still seeking to raise this issue on all levels, considering it unfair to the Jordanian economy. The total annual loss Jordan suffers due to this inspection is about \$200 million. His Majesty King Husayn stressed this issue when he met with U.S. President Bill Clinton during his last visit to Washington. The issue was also raised with a number of senior U.S. officials. Jordan has more than once asked for the lifting of the siege imposed on it. It has also called for appointing an impartial party to do this job at a lower cost and in a way that facilitates the movement of ships, thus reducing the negative and bad consequences on the Jordanian economy.

The minister said: This issue is still under discussion with all parties concerned. After his majesty the king's U.S. visit, the prime minister visited the UN headquarters in New York to discuss this issue with the secretary general and the Security Council Sanctions Committee. The prime minister submitted to this committee a full report detailing in figures the size of losses incurred by Jordan due to the maritime inspection of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels. He called on the committee to lift the siege against Jordan. The Jordanian officials have seized every opportunity to raise this important issue and demand the lifting of the siege against our country. The Foreign Ministry made similar efforts and held a series of meetings with all visiting foreign delegations. It also asked its ambassadors to discuss the issue with the officials of the host countries and exert efforts to stop these arbitrary measures.

The minister added: I would like to explain to the esteemed deputy that during all these contacts, there has never been any linkage between the inspection of ships and the course of the peace process or the signing of the peace treaty. He stressed that the government will continue its efforts and leave no stone unturned to solve this issue and lift the injustice done to Jordan. [passage omitted]

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives, Rejects 'Secret Contacts'
NC0912171594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630
GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived at Beirut Airport this afternoon aboard a private plane and was received by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

The two ministers drove immediately to the Presidential Palace to meet President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri joined the meeting in the B'abda Palace at 1815.

Minister al-Shar' spoke to Darwish 'Ammar, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent, on his arrival in Beirut:

[Begin recording] ['Ammar] Mr. Minister, can you tell us the nature of your visit to Lebanon today?

[Al-Shar'] As usual, the visit falls within the framework of consultations and coordination between the two fraternal countries' leaderships. I am, of course, carrying a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to his brother His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Damascus.

['Ammar] How could you sum up the outcome of Secretary Christopher's visit and his meetings with His Excellency President al-Asad?

[Al-Shar'] I will talk about the outcome and contents of Secretary Christopher's visit after delivering the message to his excellency the president.

['Ammar] Our last question Mr. Minister: The Israeli newspaper HA'ARTZ today cited certain sources as saying that Syrian and Israeli officers might meet in the United States. How accurate are these claims?

[Al-Shar'] You know that for a long time Israel has been asking Syria for secret meetings and Syria has rejected them. We have rejected and continue to reject such secret meetings because, in our view, they are not based on good intentions. Nor do we hide anything from our people, especially about the peace process, which concerns everybody. We believe that secret contacts do not serve the objective of the peace process that started in Madrid. The [words indistinct] are several, but I can say that this issue was raised during the talks with Secretary Christopher. There is a trend of exchanging views between the Syrian and Israeli sides in Washington under U.S. sponsorship and with U.S. participation. The Syrian side will include the Syrian ambassador in Washington and a military expert. But these will not be negotiations, rather an exchange of ideas, and they will not be secret. The United States, as a peace process sponsor, will participate in these contacts; and we consider it likely that the United States, as a sponsor, will announce such contacts as soon as possible. [end recording]

Amal Figure Blames Prime Minister for Friction
MM0612141794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Dec 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Amal: We are Not Responsible for Al-Hariri's Resignation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut—A prominent leader of Amal Movement told AL-HAYAH yesterday: "We prefer not to enter into an argument with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who is trying to hold us responsible for his resignation as if we were the cause of the problem, just as his circles tried to hold us responsible when he stayed away last May."

He said that he was surprised by "all the attempts to limit the problem to disagreement with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri [Amal leader], who was himself surprised by Prime Minister al-Hariri's resignation and was not aware of the circumstances which prompted him to take that step and was not even aware that he had expressed a desire to resign during the cabinet meeting. The resignation is his own affair, and we will not interfere in his own internal affairs, but nobody should act as if his problem stemmed from some disagreement with the Chamber of Deputies and its speaker. As for those who attribute the problem to differences with a number of ministers, including Housing and Cooperatives Minister Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, over the question of permitting the Saint George Hotel to reclaim 12 square kilometers from the sea, let me just ask this: Is a government minister not entitled to express an opinion on a legal matter or to draw attention to the fact that it would not be at all right to support a draft law we consider to be unlawful and a violation of all rules and traditions? On the claim that there is disagreement between him and Speaker Birri, we ask what is that disagreement about?"

He said that he would not reply to the statements attributed by the media to Prime Minister al-Hariri or people close to him "even if he attacked us. If the prime minister wants to take a certain stand, why hold us responsible for something we and the Chamber of Deputies had nothing to do with? The experience of him staying away at home in May was not encouraging. As for the claim that the chamber did not approve the draft law on merging the development plan with the budget, that disapproval was by an overwhelming majority of deputies, who signed a parliamentary petition insisting on rejecting the merger of the budget and the 10-year development plan."

He repeated that "there is no problem with us, and we have no special demands. Our position on the development plan is based on the fact that here was a plan which was not well-conceived and not based on clear figures or serious studies. At any rate, that is a matter for the Chamber of Deputies, which has really not obstructed the government's work or prevented it from playing its part. It did not object to draft laws for numerous projects."

The Amal leading figure said that the disagreement with the government "is on social issues. We support the labor demands and blame the government for not tackling the social and economic problems as it should. We have a number of observations which we do not hide from anyone. We say it frankly, we are not a militia but a political party entitled to express its views on all issues. Nobody can deny us the right to play our part, but if the aim is to drag us into an ongoing argument, we will not be driven by media campaigns."

He said that Prime Minister al-Hariri "tried to disagree with the chamber in the first days of the government's life when he insisted that he should be given exceptional powers. The reply of the deputies was that they were willing to give him maximum cooperation but would reject any attempt to cancel out the chamber or undermine its role. The Chamber of Deputies has demonstrated its goodwill. It quickly cooperated and did not hesitate to pass draft laws when they were convincing. I do not believe that past chambers responded to past governments the way we responded to the current government."

The leading Amal figure blamed the prime minister "for the time he chose to dwell on a problem we are not responsible for. At any rate, we will take a stand on all current affairs but we will not interfere in the current controversy because we do not see the interest in doing that. That, however, should not prevent us from expressing our views, particularly as we do not deny any achievement made by the government, but we refuse to give it carte blanche or to agree with the government on everything. We appreciate that the circumstances are not suitable for drawing attention to a political issue we can do without."

Al-Hariri Explains Reasons for Not Resigning

NC0912080894 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has said that he rescinded his resignation decision only after the majority of politicians, especially those in positions of responsibility, expressed readiness to help improve political performance and stop the destruction of the country's main political institutions. In a statement to [Beirut-based newspaper] AL-LIWA', al-Hariri stressed that the resignation was serious, not just a maneuver.

The prime minister said the main reasons for withdrawing the resignation were to continue taking responsibility and prevent any negative reflection on the homeland and its citizens. He said: Those who say that the decision to revoke the resignation was not in my favor are trying to fabricate a new problem. Al-Hariri explained that he did not ask for a government reshuffle and that he agreed to withdraw his resignation in response to an overwhelming desire and to serious calls, especially from the president of the Republic.

Official Claims Proof of Bribery by al-Hariri

NC0712190294 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT 7 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Dec 7 (AFP)—A Lebanese MP, Najah Wakim, said Wednesday he would hand over to justice officials Monday documents substantiating charges that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri had bought votes in parliament and was guilty of fraud.

Wakim, an outspoken critic of the prime minister, told AFP the documents related to dozens of real estate companies owned by al-Hariri which used dummy names and had not submitted annual reports in a bid to escape taxation.

According to Wakim, two close aides to billionaire al-Hariri "distributed bribes to nearly 40 MPs during the vote in 1992 on the law" to set up the Solidere company, entrusted with rebuilding the war-torn centre of Beirut.

Wakim said al-Hariri had confessed to him once that he had "handed out gifts".

"When I told him he was bribing officials, he replied that God had given him a fortune and that even the Prophet Muhammad had accepted gifts," he said.

The MP also charged that two banks owned by al-Hariri told the treasury they did not make any profits until 1990, and reported profits of only 50,000 and 7,500 dollars in 1991.

Opposition attacks and accusations of corruption prompted al-Hariri to announce his resignation Thursday, but he withdrew it Monday after talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus.

Syria is the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon, deploying 35,000 troops there.

'Ministerial Source' Blames 'Arafat for Infighting

MM0912095894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 94 p3

[Report by Muhammad Shuqayr: "Ministerial Source Accuses 'Arafat of Fabricating the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Battle"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut—A ministerial source has, along with the security and military commands, assessed the inter-Palestinian fighting which occurred two weeks ago between supporters of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his opponents, foremost among them the Fatah dissident Colonel Munir al-Miqdah. He concluded that 'Arafat "was behind the timing of the battle because he wanted to embarrass the Lebanese Government for reasons that are no longer secret to anyone."

The source told AL-HAYAH that 'Arafat "chose the appropriate time to undermine the state's credibility and its ability to maintain security and stability, and to

change the impression formed by Arab and Western states that Lebanon was beginning to regain its health as far as security was concerned and that there was nothing to prevent a return of money and investments to it after the 15 years of war which exhausted it at all levels."

He emphasized that "'Arafat was personally behind the supervision of the organization of the inter-Palestinian fighting, through messages he addressed to his representatives in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Rashidiyah camps, and it did not bother him that the security organs were able to intercept the clear orders he issued to them, including the assertion that it was necessary to bring some additional fighters from al-Rashidiyah camp or from the Beirut and other camps to reinforce his supporters in their confrontation with the Palestinian opposition forces, consisting mainly of those who had decided to abandon his leadership and to disobey his orders." [passage omitted]

On the aims of 'Arafat's timing of the infighting inside the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, the ministerial source said that "the Palestinian leader was not interested in seeing a stable security situation in Lebanon because such stability could attract more Arab and Western investors and businessmen and encourage them to resume their work and activities in Lebanon while the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza is suffering because so far it has not succeeded in encouraging them to consider playing a part at the commercial and economic levels." [passage omitted]

The ministerial source said that "based on his own personal calculation, 'Arafat concluded that igniting an inter-Palestinian confrontation, especially in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, would compel the government to consider entering the camps, a move that would not be compatible with the regional and international atmosphere. The state is delaying deployment in the camps and wishes to reserve that card until the situation in the peace negotiations becomes clear. It was as if 'Arafat himself wanted to directly determine the timing of the state's entry into the camps in order to embarrass it and, through it, embarrass Syria because he thought that by so doing he would be able to take away from Damascus the Palestinian card in Lebanon—not to mention that Palestinian disarmament would restore his control of some camps—counting on his financial resources and benefiting from the deteriorating social and living conditions which would allow him to gain the loyalty of the Palestinians, including those who opposed him."

The ministerial source admitted that "the state had no alternative but to resort to the method of warnings and threats, as demonstrated by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, to put direct pressure on the representatives of the popular committees in the camp to force the fighters to stop fighting."

He said that "the Lebanese state could not remain neutral and President al-Hirawi quickly issued something akin to an ultimatum which was meant to be a

message to all concerned that the government would not remain idle and would have to intervene at the appropriate time." [passage omitted]

The ministerial source said that "although the government issued a loud and clear warning, it does realize that entry [into the camps] is out of the question at this point unless it is forced to intervene as a last resort." [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack on SLA Patrol

NC0812183794 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement in which it announces that in implementation of the warnings by Hizballah—the latest being the one made by Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah—a Resistance group at 1700 detonated an explosive device against a Lahd [South Lebanese Army] patrol in the village of Tallusah. The statement added that all the patrol members had either been killed or wounded.

Immediately afterward, Israeli troops responded by intermittently shelling some southern villages.

SLA Soldiers Killed in Security Zone Explosion

TA0812182094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] At least seven SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were killed and others were wounded in an explosion of a large roadside bomb in the security zone. Our army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the bomb was activated against an SLA unit on a patrol in the Tallusah area in the central sector. Almost all the soldiers were hurt in the explosion. Our correspondent Mikha'el Gurdus adds that Hizballah's radio station announced this evening that the ultimatum the organization posed to SLA soldiers to defect is over and henceforth the terrorists will step up their activities.

Hizballah To Continue Attacks After Withdrawal

NC0912071294 Paris AFP in English 0007 GMT 9 Dec 94

[By Jacques Lhuillery]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, Dec 9 (AFP)—Hizballah guerrillas will continue anti-Israeli attacks even after the Jewish state has withdrawn its forces from south Lebanon, a leader of the Shi'ite Moslem fundamentalist group warned in an interview with AFP.

"We shall forever reject Israel's existence," said Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli in his well-guarded home in the suburbs of Ba'alabakk, a Hizballah stronghold in the Syrian-controlled al-Biq'a Valley.

"I tell you resistance will go on even after Israel's withdrawal."

Hizballah claimed responsibility for two bomb attacks inside Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon Thursday [8 December] that killed nine members of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), and wounded 10 others.

The Iranian-backed group, which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in Lebanon, said the bombings were aimed at "punishing" the SLA, "following repeated warnings and appeals to the enemy's agents to repent."

The SLA's 3,000 men are paid, equipped and trained by Israel, which has some 1,000 troops and intelligence agents in the zone.

The latest attacks were the bloodiest against the SLA in nine months.

Ten SLA militiamen were killed and 12 wounded on March 7, in a string of attacks in the occupied zone.

"Our goal is to destroy the Zionist entity, and in the near future there won't be a single Jew or Zionist left in Palestine," said Shaykh al-Tufayli, formerly Hizballah's secretary-general and now its chief representative in the al-Biq'a Valley.

"Peace will not survive those who have signed it," he said, branding PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as a "traitor who will fall soon."

Hizballah, the "Party of God," condemned the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May. It also slammed the October 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

If Syria signed such a deal it would be making "a big mistake," Shaykh al-Tufayli warned. He praised the firm stand adopted by Damascus.

"In the past the Syrians helped the resistance a lot, both morally and financially. Now their support is political. Certainly we would lose this strategic depth" if Damascus signed a peace deal, he said.

"Thanks to Iran's help, we are continuing our economic and military activities. Without this money, it would be more difficult but we would still keep going."

Al-Tufayli said his group was no longer receiving weapons and had to rely on "limited means" for its operations in south Lebanon.

But the situation on the ground was "excellent," he insisted, while declining to say how many fighters Hizballah could count on.

Referring to a recent pledge by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi that "not a single bullet" would be fired at Israel from Lebanon if the Jewish state withdrew from

the occupied zone, al-Tufayli said: "I guarantee that he won't be able to keep his promise."

He also ruled out handing over weapons to the Lebanese army if Israel withdrew.

"I regret that there are officials in my country who plan to disarm the resistance," he said.

Hizballah has had eight deputies in the Lebanese parliament since 1992.

The group's radical wing refused to participate in the parliamentary system created in 1989 under the al-Ta'if accords which ended the 1975-1990 civil war.

Israel Reportedly Reinforces Border Posts

NC0912123794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few hours Israel has sent 300 soldiers backed by 35 vehicles, including 12 Merkava tanks and 15 M-113 armored vehicles, to the border area. These reinforcements have been stationed at posts facing Iqlim al-Tuffah, in Sujud and al-Ghizlan, and at the Tallat al-Dabshah and 'Ali al-Tahir posts overlooking al-Nabatiyah. Three artillery batteries, 120, 155, and 175 mm, have been placed in the eastern sector parallel with the international border between Lebanon and the occupied territory.

Syria

Defense Minister Reaffirms Stand on Peace Process

JN0812182594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A ceremony was held this morning to mark the graduation of another class of officers from the Military-Political Academy. Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, presided over the graduation on behalf of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Talas gave a speech in which he said: It is a source of pride for me to deputize for the comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, in presiding over this event marking the matriculation of a new entry of the officers of political guidance in our valiant armed forces. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Talas underscored the role and efficiency of political guidance in raising the standard of political and ideological awareness of the fighters and spreading the creed and thought and objectives of the [Arab Socialist Ba'th] party and incarnating the moral and militant values of the comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. These values, he added, are a potent weapon to achieve victory and realize objectives.

Lt. Gen. Talas then addressed the peace process in the region and noted the obstacles created by Israel to thwart peacemaking efforts and its attempts to dodge the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace underpinned by the resolutions of international legitimacy and land-for-peace principle. He also underlined Syria's adherence to a just peace and its persistent search for peace as a strategic option assuring Arab rights and enabling all peoples of the region to live in peace, security, and dignity. Syria, declared the defense minister, will under no circumstances agree to peace Israeli-style, as the leader al-Asad always stresses. [passage omitted]

Press Views Syrian Position, Intifadah

JN0912095894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Dec 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria's genuine work for a just and comprehensive peace is no longer doubted by anyone in the world. After his recent meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher emphasized this fact and lauded the genuine Syrian position.

Everyone is now aware of the clear Syrian position, which stems from the will of international legitimacy, from what has been agreed upon by the international community regarding the Security Council resolutions, and from what the U.S. has laid down as a basis for its initiative, represented by the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Only Israel is tampering with the peace process and taking ambiguous positions. This ambiguity allows Israel to maneuver, evade the requisites of peace, waste time, and maintain the stalemate to no avail.

The paper points out that Israel has wasted a series of meetings as part of bilateral talks in Washington by making futile proposals that are far from the substance of peace. Even when Israel achieved a separate breakthrough on the Palestinian track—a track which Israel extricated from the framework of the peace process and distanced from the bases agreed upon at the Madrid conference—it began to search for partial solutions and inequitable deals by repeatedly trying to strike at the Madrid bases, by excluding the Security Council resolutions, and by canceling the effectiveness of the U.S. role.

The paper adds: Israel did all this because it does not want a just and comprehensive peace that requires full Israeli withdrawal. Such a withdrawal continues to be the actual key to real peace that will return all the territories and rights to their owners and achieve security for all based on balance. Such peace will also secure the dignity and interests of all and place the region on the threshold of a new phase of stability and security.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Following his talks with Christopher, Yitzhaq Rabin said there was nothing new. This remark only expressed insistence on continuing the intransigence, disregarding the U.S. efforts and the will of peace, persisting in undermining the peace efforts, and putting the peace process at a crossroads. All this is a result of Israel's insistence on creating difficulties, ignoring the realities, and failing to respond to both the resolutions of international legitimacy and the efforts of the U.S. cosponsor.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH discusses the statements made by Israeli officials before and during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's regional tour regarding peace and the nature of peace. All these statements were characterized by contradiction, obscurity, intransigence, rejection, and attempts at blackmailing and setting conditions. The peace process cannot be rectified, nor can it achieve a just and comprehensive solution unless there is a substantive and basic change in Tel Aviv's policy and performance.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: It is true that peace is Syria's strategic option and is the objective of Syria's efforts. However, such peace should be a dignified one and should regain all the territories and rights and ensure security for all. It should also be durable. Any solution that does not take into account Syria's just and legitimate demands—which are also the demands of the entire international community—and that does not achieve full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and does not return Israel to the 4 June 1967 lines will be the antithesis of peace.

In an editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the Israeli evasion of the peace requisites. Under the headline "The Peace Conditions Are Clear," the paper reviews the various ways by which Israel evades the requirements of peace and avoids committing itself to the international resolutions and charters.

AL-BA'TH also discusses the interpretations by Israeli leaders of the meanings of security and peace. It says: They devote everything to Israel while denying the other party everything. Peace is for Israel alone, whereas they demand that the Arabs provide security for Israel at the expense of both their dignity and all that concerns the Arab claims to their usurped territories.

AL-BA'TH adds: This intransigent Israeli policy relies on acquired arms, funds, and political support. This poses a constant Israeli threat to the Arabs, especially since reality shows that Israel is the party that is occupying the Arab territories, rejecting the international resolutions, carrying out daily aggressions on the Arabs in Lebanon and Palestine, and preparing to expand these aggressions.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH asserts that peace is an indivisible whole. There will be no peace if we do not regain all our occupied territories. Likewise, there will be no peace under the threats uttered by the Israeli leaders.

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In the "With the Events" column, AL-BA'TH discusses the eighth anniversary of the heroic Palestinian intifadah against Israeli occupation. The paper says: As an action, the intifadah is a civilized asset that should be added to the overall defense mechanisms that go beyond self-preservation. The intifadah has torn apart the mask of occupation, and it is trying to ease the burden of the hateful Israeli practices.

Khaddam Receives Kuwaiti Assembly Delegation

Meets Assembly Speaker

LD0812175194 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1446 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 8 Dec (KUNA)—Ahmad al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, met here this afternoon with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi earlier welcomed the Kuwaiti delegation in their second homeland Syria and stressed the depth of ties between the two brotherly countries, Kuwait and Syria. He said that "our sympathy toward Kuwait, this brotherly Arab country, is very strong. We stood with it in the past and we will stand with it to defend its just causes. [passage omitted]

He stressed that "Syria's standing with the brotherly Kuwaiti people was a national duty and we only did our duty." [passage omitted]

Sa'dun said that the deterioration of the Arab nation's situation was due to the Iraqi regime and the crime of its invasion of Kuwait which created a new crack in the Arab edifice. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Attends Session

JN0812194894 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1830 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly, and his delegation. The session was also attended by Mr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, and Mr. Ibrahim 'Ali Musa, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. They talked about the brotherly ties between Syria and Kuwait and Arab developments, as well as the Middle East peace process. Mr. al-Sa'dun and his delegation voiced their appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab policies and principled positions in support of Kuwait and pan-Arab causes.

Bangladesh

Radio Praises Military for Role in UN Peacekeeping

BK0812143794 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh seeks a peaceful atmosphere around the world and to back its strong commitment up, the country plays an active role in different international bodies and has consistently supported the United Nations peacekeeping initiatives over the years. Bangladesh quite frequently committed its troops to the UN peacekeeping initiative and has been one of the most active members in this regard. The country's participation in UN peacekeeping operations in recent years also included sending members of the law enforcement agencies and civilians as even observers in addition to committing defense forces. Bangladesh's strong and active role in the UN peacekeeping operations also fits well with the country's principled stand for peace in various other international organizations in which Bangladesh is an active member, including the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO; the Commonwealth; and the Nonaligned Movement, NAM.

At the moment, Bangladeshi troops are deployed in UN operations in several trouble spots around the globe, including in Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti, Mozambique, and Rwanda. They have also served successfully and admirably in the recent past in many other UN operations, including Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, in Iraq immediately after the Iran-Iraq war, in Cambodia during the UN-initiated action, in Namibia during the transition, and in other places. And the Bangladeshi troops serving in the UN operations have always performed their assigned duties admirably with courage and dignity even under difficult and at times dangerous circumstances. The Bangladeshi troops have already earned a well deserved reputation as a disciplined and well organized force.

Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman also recently referred to the outstanding performance of the Bangladeshi troops in different UN peacekeeping operations. Speaking at a reception of the Armed Forces Day earlier last month, the prime minister said that our armed forces have earned worldwide reputation. Begum Ziaur Rahman said that the armed forces are for national defense and objective is to ensure utmost security to the country's independence and sovereignty, but Bangladesh will continue to work with other countries for global peace as this is the one cornerstone of Bangladesh foreign policy, she added.

Describing the armed forces as the pride of the nation, the prime minister also pointed out that apart from safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty, the armed forces are also making significant

contribution to nation-building activities and facing natural calamities. The active participation of the defense forces in disaster management during floods, cyclones, and other natural calamities in the country is well known. They have always played a leading role in carrying out rescue operations, in distributing relief among the affected people, and the significant and gallant contribution by members of the armed forces during the country's liberation war is still gratefully remembered.

The continuing honorable service of the Bangladeshi troops to the UN peacekeeping operations only increases the long list of accomplishments of the country's defense forces over the years, but the Bangladeshi soldiers serving in the UN peacekeeping missions often have to operate under very difficult conditions.

Replacement of UNIKOM Infantry Troops Scheduled

BK0912074194 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh is replacing its mechanized infantry battalion in the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observers Mission—UNIKOM—with the new unit of 775 Army personnel. An ISPR [Inter-Service Public Relations] press release issued in Dhaka last night said the advanced party of the battalion comprising 150 Army personnel, including officers, left Dhaka for Kuwait yesterday. The main body of the battalion will reach Kuwait in four batches by the 19th of next month. Meanwhile, the original mechanized infantry battalion of 791 Army personnel sent to UNIKOM a year ago will be back home. The first batch of unit is returning to Dhaka today, while the remaining troops of the unit will be back home by the 20th of next month.

Prime Minister on Dialogue With Opposition Parties

BK0812161794 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The 17th session of Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] has been prorogued. Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali a short while ago read out the prorogation order of the president.

Speaking in the house before the prorogation, the leader of the house, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Ziaur Rahman, reiterated that Parliament is the right place for discussing any national issues whatsoever and suitable decisions on national issues can only be taken on the floor of the house. She asked the members of the opposition to come back to the house to help resolve all national issues through mutual discussions. She said still there are ample opportunities to have meaningful discussions with the government side for resolving the present political impasse in the country.

Begum Ziaur Rahman said ruling party believes in mutual respect and holding discussions to resolve all problems by ourselves. Giving the background of the dialogue her government had with the main opposition parties under the auspices of the special envoy of the Commonwealth secretary general, she said Sir Ninian himself put forward proposals of forming an interim government comprising five elected representatives from both the opposition and the government parties, including the prime minister, to conduct the next national elections. The prime minister regretted that the dialogue ended in a failure. She, however, said that given goodwill and sincerity, we are capable of solving our own problems by ourselves. In this context, she mentioned that we liberated our country and hoisted the green and red [word indistinct] flag all by ourselves.

The house tonight passed the Coast Guard Bill 1994. Piloted by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the bill provided for the creation of a coastal guard force to effectively check offenses along the country's coastal line as well as in its territorial waters and maritime zone. It may be mentioned that a resolution to this effect was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad in 1992. [passage omitted]

India

Official Rejects Press Report on Rao's Health

BK0912093494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Rajya Sabha was today assured that the prime minister is hale and hearty and there is no cause of concern. The leader of the house and the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, was reacting to a newspaper report on the prime minister's health. The issue was raised during the zero hour by Mr. I.K. Gujral—Janata Dal—and others who wanted a statement from the government on the issue.

First Results of State Assembly Election Reported

BK0912115494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1030 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sikkim chief minister, Mr. Sanchaman Limbu, has lost the assembly election. In Yoksam constituency, he was defeated by Mr. Ashok Kumar Subba, an Independent, by a margin of 145 votes. The ruling Congress-I has however opened its account. The party candidate, Mr. Soman Choda Lepcha, unseated the Sikkim Sangram Parishad [SSP] nominee, Mr. Soman Dorjee Lepcha, by a modest margin of 47 votes. Three more results are available from the state. The Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] has won two, while the SSP has bagged one. Twenty-seven results are yet to come in.

In Goa, trends are available for eight assembly constituencies. The Congress-I is leading in four, the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party [MGP] in two, and the

Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] in one, and the United Goans Democratic Party, UGDP, in one.

In Andhra Pradesh, the chief minister, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, of the Congress-I is leading over his nearest CPI [Communist Party of India] rival by over 20,000 votes at the end of the third round of counting in the Dhone constituency.

In Karnataka, the former chief minister and a candidate of the Karnataka Congress Party, Mr. S. Bangarappa, is leading in Sorab constituency by over 8,000 votes, but he is trailing in the Sagar constituency.

Ms. Dil Kumari Bhandari of the SSP and a sitting Lok Sabha member has been defeated in the Jorethang-Nayabazar constituency in Sikkim. She lost to Mr. Bhoj Raj Rai, of the SDF by a margin of over 1,650 votes. Mr. K. Upreti of the SSP retained the Rhenock assembly seat defeating his nearest rival Mr. Biraj Adhikari of the SDF by more than 690 votes. The Central Pundam-East Pundam seat has gone to the SDF. Its candidate, Mr. D.P. Kharel, defeated his nearest Congress- rival, Mr. Puspak Ram Subba, by 182 votes.

In Goa, counting has been completed in two constituencies of Tivim and Kuttalam. In both the seats, the Congress-I was in the lead. However, results are yet to be officially announced. In Mandrem constituency, the MGP leader, Mr. Ramakant Khalap, was trailing. In Panaji constituency, BJP candidate was ahead.

In Andhra Pradesh, counting is in progress in 292 constituencies. As per trends available from 110 centers, from Singanamala constituency in Anantpur District, the Telugu Desam Party candidate, Mr. K. Jay Ram, was leading by 8,000 votes at the end of the first round against his nearest Congress-I rival and sitting MLA [member of legislative assembly], Ms. Samanta Kamani. In Dhone constituency, Chief Minister Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy is leading by over 20,400 votes against his nearest rival, Mr. S. Sudhakar Reddy of the CPI at the end of the third round of counting. In the Chirala constituency of (Chikakulam) District, Ms. Pratiba Bharti of the Telugu Desam Party was leading by about 5,000 votes at the end of the first round of counting.

The latest tally from Sikkim is:- SDF - four; SSP - one; Congress - one; Independent - one.

Official Promotes New 'Param 9,000' Supercomputer

BK0912103294 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 5 Dec 94 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Dec. 4 (PTI)—The state-of-the-art 'Param 9,000' computer, India's answer to American technology denials, will be available to users by March next year, according to Dr Vijay Bhatkar, chief of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune.

"The second generation Param supercomputing machine will only have the peaking computing power of two giga floating operation per second (flops) initially which can be further scaled to 50 giga flops on demand," Dr. Bhatkar told PTI here.

He said the development of Teraflop supercomputer which is capable of billions floating point operations in a second by India has demystified the belief that only a handful of companies from the advanced world can design such superior computer systems.

Param 9,000, which has wide applications in the fields of scientific and engineering research, was recently displayed at the supercomputing '94 exhibition in Washington and was well received by the information technology community.

Many research laboratories and universities in the United States as well as in Europe showed interest in testing Param 9,000. Besides, several developing countries like Indonesia have expressed keenness to acquire this relatively cheap supercomputer," the C-DAC executive director said.

India is the first third world country to join the select band of nations those have acquired capability to develop supercomputers indigenously.

It may be recalled that the US had denied India a supercomputer intended for use in agricultural research six years back saying that the sophisticated machine might be deployed for military operations.

Dr Bhatkar said the Washington exposition of the Param 9,000 prototype proved India has the capability to develop supercomputers at commercially competitive prices.

The new generation Param supercomputer will cost anything between 800,000 and four million US dollars compared to similar American supercomputing machine available in the international market for \$10 million.

The state-owned C-DAC embarked on India's most ambitious computer development project to develop higher computing machine way back in 1988.

Its first generation supercomputer called Param 8,600 not only put India on the global map in super computing but showed a developing country like India can stand up to the denials of advanced technology by the developed world.

Since then, the prime research centre has installed some 30 modules of this one giga flops computing power system in research laboratories and IITs [Indian Institute of Technology] in various parts of the country. It has also exported Param 8,600 to countries such as Russia and Canada.

The second generation Param is one of the few supercomputing systems worldwide using parallel processing.

It is structurally different from vector supercomputers where tasks were executed through several designed microprocessors.

In parallel processing systems several hundreds of comparatively inexpensive microprocessor (nodes) break up task into number of 'sub-tasks' to execute and thereby saving and taken to carry out the task. [sentence as published]

Dr Bhatkar said the first Param 9,000 supercomputer with 2 giga flop computing capacity will initially use 40 nodes, purchased from a US company.

Design architecture and technology is already available with C-DAC to develop higher version with a maximum of 50 giga flop power. However, the C-DAC chief said, such systems, using 1000 such nodes each costing about Rs [rupees] 5 lakh, would be developed only after receiving demands from customers.

Such advanced computing systems have wide ranging applications. Some of them are in remote sensing and launching of satellite vehicles like PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle] and GSLV [Geostationary Launch Vehicle].

Iran

Velayati Leaves for ICO Summit in Casablanca

LD0912114894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has left for Morocco at the head of a political delegation in order to attend the seventh summit of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] heads of state.

The summit of leaders of ICO member states will be opened in Casablanca tomorrow and will continue until 24 Azar [15 December 1994].

In this six-day meeting, during the preliminary sessions and in the course of the main summit of the ICO heads of state, political delegations from 60 Islamic states will discuss the most important issues of the world of Islam.

In an interview with IRNA's correspondent, a spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry explained the aims of Iran's participation in the summit. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation is taking part in the summit in order to review political, cultural, and economic issues of the Islamic world.

Mr. Mohammadi added: The war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the problem of Palestine, the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, and the problems of Kashmir's Muslims are some of the most important issues that the Islamic Republic of Iran will address.

Mr. Mohammadi said: Economic issues will also be addressed, especially in view of the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently holding the presidency of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO. Efforts will be made to reach some agreements on cooperation between ECO and ICO and other organizations.

Velayati on Results of ICO Geneva Meeting on Bosnia

LD0812211994 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1915 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 8 December—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Correspondent] Iran's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati arrived in Tehran Wednesday [7 December] night from the Islamic contact group's Geneva conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina during which ways of resolving the Bosnian dilemma were discussed. Mr. foreign minister, could you reach any practical conclusion this time?

[Velayati] Yes, I have to reiterate that during this session we have reached some very concrete and clear conclusions of consultation with the foreign ministers of other members of contact group of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] and that is very important, and more important than [the] previous one because of the attendance of the president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic.

In our talks and in a communique we have reiterated that the Muslim countries should increase and intensify the help to Bosnia, and also we have decided to cooperate together at the United Nations and we have to try to convince the members, permanent members and nonpermanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations that the arms embargo against Yugoslavia cannot be extended to Bosnia. And also all contact group members have been against the recent proposal about the creation of a confederation amongst Serbs, Serbs from Bosnia, and also Serbia and Montenegro.

This is very clear position of the Muslim countries, more than 50 Muslim countries, we are against the creation of a confederation because giving such a right to the Serbs is like giving reward to the aggressor. And also we have decided to be more active in Casablanca where the summit of the OIC will be held very soon.

[Correspondent] It now seems that rebel Serbs are being given concessions by the Western countries as even the UN peacekeepers are preparing to pull out of Bosnia. How do you look at this in fact appeasement of the rebel Serbs?

[Velayati] Yes, as you rightly mentioned this is an unfortunate situation in Bosnia. Unfortunately during the last about three years, we have been witnessing very

bad behavior and double standard position of the Western countries towards the question of Bosnia.

In Bosnia there is a real massacre of the Muslims. More than 200,000 Muslims have been massacred in Bosnia and about one million Bosnians have been deported from their own territory. In spite of that, they [Western governments] have not taken any decisive measure against the aggressor. While Bosnia is a full member country of the United Nations and many resolutions for these people and against Serbs have been adopted in the Security Council, but unfortunately the United Nations and some permanent members of the Security Council are not ready to fulfil these resolutions which have been adopted in the Security Council.

So people of Bosnia are very disappointed from what some Western countries have done. So we as Muslim countries should rely on ourselves and we have to help each other.

[Correspondent] Mr. foreign minister, thank you for joining the English news.

[Velayati] Thank you very much.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 2030 GMT on 8 December broadcasts the following related report: "Our country's foreign minister, who was in Geneva to participate in a gathering of the foreign ministers of the contact group of the ICO, in an interview with our correspondent in Tehran on Wednesday night, described the reason for the convening of the meeting as the continuance and intensification of Serbs' attacks against Bosnian Muslims, especially in Bihac and Sarajevo. The unanimity of the participants on the fact that the Serbian onslaught against Bosnia is in reality a confrontation with Islam and Muslims was, in his view, significant.

"Quoting the Bosnian President Izetbegovic, he described the aid given to Bosnia by the Islamic states to be effective but insufficient and said: During the session Mr. Izetbegovic candidly announced that if the Bosnian people are to resist those aggressions aid by the Islamic World must be increased. Mr. Velayati said: At the Geneva meeting the Bosnian president, while praising the stances of the Islamic states, criticized the stand of some Western countries regarding Bosnian issues. In his statements, he [Izetbegovic] mentioned Iran's name and said: It was thanks to the aid given by Iran that the people of Bihac have been able to make a stand so far."]

Commentary: West Uses Rushdie Issue To Suppress Islam

LD0812204294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1552 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a time when some European countries have once again raised the issue of

Salman Rushdie at the United Nations, yesterday the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member states focused their attention on the need for a joint action against insults to Islam. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, countries such as Britain, who have a long history of insults against Islamic sanctities, use the same motive applied to ignore crimes in Bosnia and support France's denial of education for girls who wear Islamic dress. They use characters such as Salman Rushdie to attack Islam under the pretext of freedom of speech and opinion.

The target of all such policies is to suppress Islam and Muslims. The main aim is to harness Islam and the wave of pro-Islamic movements in Algeria, Lebanon, the occupied territories of Palestine. The same is true in the cases of the presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf and the pressures applied against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With the weakening of socialism and the crisis in Western ideology, Islamic thoughts are increasingly prevalent in the world. Apart from the return of world Muslims to their Islamic identity, reports also speak of the growth and influence of Islam in Western countries. [passage omitted]

International documents always speak of the right of nations to determine their own fate and freedom, and their right to political participation, but Muslims in Bosnia, Algeria, southern Lebanon, occupied Palestine, France, Holland, and Britain are deprived of all such rights. The British collaborate with the Serbs in the implementation of the policy of ethnic cleansing.

The powerful Arab countries support the same policy which the U.S. war minister [defense secretary] during Reagan's era announced on board a warship in the Persian Gulf. Intoxicated by the demolition of Iranian oil platforms, he said: The roots of the Iranian nation must be burned out.

Under such conditions, arrogant countries not only attack Muslims' physical integrity, but also follow up their defamatory policy against Islam by using agents such as Salman Rushdie in an attempt to depict Islam as a violent and anti-human rights religion, thereby undermining any attraction to Islam.

'Shabby, Dishonest' Human Rights Report Viewed
NC0912115594 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5
Dec 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Human Rights—A New Form of Black-mail"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The recent report by the United Nations' special representative on human rights, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl concerning human rights situation in Iran can be considered as another assault in a political-legal form.

The report from the start to the end, shows the West's crafty animosity towards Islam and Islamic Republic of Iran.

Which "human rights" is the West safeguarding? This is the first stern question to which the compilers of the so-called Human Rights report should respond. The essence of the human rights, as proposed by the West, is entirely discriminatory and Eurocentric. For all the values and the sources which are employed and accepted as the axis of the human rights issue are those of the Western world.

In compiling the Human Rights Charter, centralization of power and accumulation of wealth have been the main aims. The compilers of this charter should answer to the following question: what are the non-Western sources for compiling the Human Rights Charter? Which sources of Islamic law are employed in compiling the human rights? Isn't it true that more than a billion of the world people are Muslims? Doesn't such legislation and device challenge the values, civilization and culture of the other human and religious groups?

Isn't such an emphasis on the human rights, under the pressure from certain political power, a sort of new hidden agenda to increase political, economic and cultural dominance of the West all over the world. Under the pretext of the defence of Human rights, the West will try to make sure that it expands its spheres of influence by any means necessary, and those means mean such horrendous measures as genocide. The Western-supported ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina is the best example that comes to mind.

On the other hand, the governments which preserve human values and which provide a decent environment for the growth of human potentials are accused and blackmailed by being labeled as "governments against human rights."

Really, what do the West has to say about the Serbian crimes in Bosnia, the Palestinians being killed in occupied territories, the massacre of Somalians by the American troops? Don't they hear their cries? Shouldn't these crimes and murders receive the same ubiquitous Western human rights test?

Mr. Galindo Pohl, the esteemed representative of United Nations' Human Rights Commission knows too well that he has given the world a shabby, dishonest report on Iran. He acted as a collaborator with those Western powers that have tried, though in vain, to make Iran a pariah in the international scene.

Notwithstanding Western propaganda, the people of the world, especially the oppressed nations, know that the Islamic Republic of Iran was established to return the lost dignity of man to him, especially the human being in Iran that suffered under 25 centuries of despotic kings. The people in the world know that the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979 was actually the best thing that ever happened to the situation of human rights in Iran and in the region.

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Since 1979, the world has undergone a lot of changes. The transformation in the political structures of countries such as the Philippines, the former Soviet Union, Romania, etc. derived their inspiration from the popular Islamic Revolution of 1979. Despite what Galindo Pohl and his supporters have tried to do, the people in the world actually give the Islamic Republic of Iran the due credit for the providing the inspiration to improve the human rights standards anywhere in the world.

Commentary: West Unhappy With Tehran-Kiev Ties

LD0812153494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1049 GMT 8 Dec 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri left the Ukrainian capital of Kiev for Baku today at the end of first leg of his visit to the republics of Ukraine and Azerbaijan. He is on a six-day official visit as head of a high ranking political-economic delegation.

The Majles speaker's official visit to Ukraine, which is the first visit by a high-ranking official of our country to this newly independent republic after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, is particularly important.

Ukraine has undertaken extensive efforts within the framework of its foreign policy after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. The visit of Ukraine's president and chairman of its parliament to the Islamic Republic of Iran about two year ago is worth mentioning as one of the outstanding examples of these efforts. The issue of providing energy that is needed by Ukraine's vast industries of aircraft and machine manufacturing and construction industries, has become the country's biggest economic-social problem since the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the cessation of old fuel sources. Without doubt, providing energy is the main aim of the Ukraine leaders in establishing ties with the countries which have energy resources, including Iran.

This issue, which was declared clearly by the host during meetings with the chairman of the parliament and heads of the special commissions of Ukraine and the Majles speaker and his accompanying delegation, demonstrates the fact that Ukraine's need for Iran's gas and oil could prepare a very favorable basis for an ever-increasing expansion of economic-political ties between the two countries. In addition to the gas and oil, foodstuffs, textile materials, clothes, cleaning and hygiene material, and medicine are among the important commodities, which according to our country's officials, could have priorities for export to Ukraine.

Iran will benefit from the products of Ukraine's vast industries for aircraft and machine production and other heavy industries. Taking into account that country's long production history and export of its products, Iran's

need for industry could be one of the principle results of the deepening of ties between Tehran and Kiev.

There is no doubt that the closeness of Iran with the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union could not please those people who consider our country's just and principled stances toward these republics as contrary to their hegemonistic interest and aims.

The adverse Western media propaganda, which has intensifies simultaneously with visits by our country's officials to these republics, could be regarded as an obvious example of the unhappiness of a number of the Western powers about the expansion of Iran's ties with these republics.

Improved Relations With UAE Said Good for Region

LD0812230594 Tehran IRNA in English 2207 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—President of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has recently expressed his country's readiness to hold direct talks with Tehran.

Political experts hold the view that mutual negotiations will have fruitful results for the two brother nations of Iran and the UAE and for the Persian Gulf region as a whole and that is why Tehran has always given support to the holding direct talks.

Iran has maintained that the only logical and principled solution for the misunderstandings is to hold direct bilateral negotiations without setting any prerequisite. Tehran has repeatedly announced that it will welcome a visit to Tehran by the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs for such talks.

A political expert in Tehran says that by reviewing the process of developments in Iran-UAE ties one could trace the misunderstandings to Washington.

The development process of relations among the countries in the region after the Persian Gulf war in 1990 indicates that the U.S.-engineered security scenario for the region rests on dual containment of Iran and Iraq and creating restrictions especially for Iran, the expert says.

According to him, the U.S. statesmen overtly speak of American hegemonic goals in the region.

As part of this strategy attempts were made to hinder promotion of healthy and constructive ties between Tehran and other regional countries either through covert or overt diplomacy or by way of anti-Iran propaganda, he says.

According to the expert this policy mainly aims at portraying Iran's foreign and domestic policies as dangerous for the southern Persian Gulf littoral states,

thereby giving Washington the necessary chance to have more influence and foothold in the region.

A Middle East observer also opines that the United States regards Iran as the main obstacle for its political hegemony in the region and follows a policy of creating rift between Tehran and its neighbours.

According to Dr. Kyan, Iran as the only major power in the region especially after the weakness of Iraq, is considered as a deterrent factor against U.S. expansionism.

He said Washington to a certain extent managed to the relations of Iran's Arab neighbours with the Islamic Republic, and the UAE's claim to the three Iranian islands was part of this plot.

He said differences and border disputes among some of the Arab states of the Persian Gulf are deep-rooted, but the Americans tried to give a mischievous turn to the issue of the three Iranian islands with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) [GCC] and Arab League playing to Washington's tune.

Kyan said it is obvious the UAE claim had no legal and historical basis and from the political point benefits none of the states in the region.

He said the UAE having unsuccessfully tried to internationalize the issue, seems to have realized that misunderstanding between two brotherly Muslim nations is not to the benefit of the region.

Kyan hoped that UAE officials would match their words with action and hold talks in an atmosphere of Islamic brotherhood and confidence in order to remove misunderstandings and reach common objectives regardless of the enemies' meddling.

Daily Sees Improvement in Relations With France
*LD0812140094 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT
8 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday [8 December] said that relations between Iran and France have improved to such an extent that preparations have been made for a state visit to Iran by French President Francois Mitterand.

The murder of Shapur Bakhtiar, the last premier of the former regime in Iran took place at a time when Iran has gained the respect and admiration of international circles through the impartial stance it had adopted on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' added.

"Those European states which had supported Iraq during its eight-year war of aggression against Iran, were thereby induced to express willingness to improve ties with Tehran," it wrote.

Curiously, the editorial noted, at that juncture of heightening political relations, the murder of Bakhtiar and the

subsequent international propaganda campaign against Iran created such a poisonous atmosphere that Mitterand's trip was cancelled.

Now, with the Paris court verdict, political observers are of the opinion that Paris-Tehran ties will improve.

"But today, the situation in the region is in turmoil. Michel Aoun, the French ally in Lebanon, has been forced to step down. Saddam Husayn is in total international isolation and after the second Persian Gulf war, the U.S. and Britain have gained almost total control of six south Persian Gulf littoral states, monopolizing the markets in those countries," it said.

"Given these circumstances," it said, "it seems natural for Iran and France to resume an active trading partnership."

Not only does Iran present a large market, it will also act as a bridge to the Central Asian republics, the article stressed, adding that the conjunction of these conditions is enough to persuade the French authorities that fostering bilateral ties with Iran serves the national interest of France.

Although France is now on the eve of presidential elections, it would seem that reciprocity of trips by high-ranking officials of the two countries would facilitate the acceleration of development in bilateral ties, it concluded.

Official Media Comment on Bakhtiar Murder Trial

*NC0812160594 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT
8 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Dec 8 (AFP)—Iran's official media said Thursday [8 December] the verdict in the trial of Iranians accused of involvement in the murder of former prime minister Shapur Bakhtiar in a Paris suburb three years ago left Tehran free of blame.

"A cloud has lifted from Iranian-French ties," said the IRAN NEWS, a daily close to the government, quoting political observers in Tehran.

The radical newspaper SALAM, usually very critical of France, announced with satisfaction on its front page: "according to the French judges, the Iranian Government had no role" in the murder of Bakhtiar.

The shah's last prime minister, who opposed the Islamic government, was strangled at his home in Suresnes, a suburb of Paris, along with his secretary Sorouch Kati-beth, on August 6, 1991.

A court in Paris Tuesday acquitted diplomat Zeynal Abedine Sarhadi, 28, who worked at Iran's embassy in Switzerland—the only one of the three defendants to have had a direct link with the government.

The other two Iranians were found guilty.

'Ali Vakili Rad, 35, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Bakhtiar and his aide. Massoud Hendi, 47, received a 10-year jail term for helping the killers into France.

Six other people are being tried in absentia and will be sentenced at a later date, including Farydoun Boyerahmadi and Mohammed Azad, who are accused of being Rad's accomplices in the killings.

The Iranian newspapers did not mention the sentences passed on Rad and Hendi, the prosecutors' claim that Sarhadi helped the killers flee to Switzerland or allegations that Tehran masterminded the operation.

State-run radio and television did not mention the trial or the verdict.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Wednesday the French judiciary had proved that "the Iranian government was not involved" in the double murder.

The most widely-read newspaper, KEYHAN, which is close to the hardline anti-Western group within the regime, did not comment on the verdict directly.

It simply recalled President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's position, stated last September, that the verdict would be "in Iran's favor if the trial does not become politicised."

Observers here said KEYHAN's comment was a way to exonerate Paris over its handling of the affair, which created a freeze in Franco-Iranian relations for the past three years.

Tehran was all the more satisfied and relieved because it had intervened publicly several times on behalf of Sarhadi—the only defendant to have had such backing.

Switzerland's extradition of Sarhadi to France triggered a short-lived crisis between Tehran and Bern in December 1991.

"Now, with the Paris court verdict, political observers are of the opinion that Paris-Tehran ties will escalate," said the English-language IRAN NEWS.

"It would seem that reciprocity of trips by high-ranking officials of the two countries would facilitate the acceleration of development in bilateral ties."

The paper said the assassination of Bakhtiar and subsequent "international publicity campaign against Iran created such a poisonous atmosphere" that a visit by French President Francois Mitterrand to Iran was cancelled and no French minister had visited the country over the past three years.

Defense Minister Receives Qatari Defense Official

LD0812183394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, the Qatari minister of state for defense affairs and

the acting commander in chief of the Qatari Armed Forces, met Mr. Mohammad Foruzandeh, our country's minister of defense and armed forces logistics, today.

At this meeting the two sides discussed bilateral ties and cooperation, as well as regional security and both stressed the need for coexistence and good-neighborliness.

The Qatari minister of state for defense affairs also paid his respects to founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with him, by visiting his immaculate tomb.

Paper on Russia's 'Bloody Gift' of Veto to Serbs NC0912114494 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Dec 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Russia—An Accomplice of the Serbs"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Once again, Russia has proved to be an accomplice of the fascist Serbs. The Russian representative at the United Nations used his veto power to make it clear that Russia, all along, has supported the Serbs.

The Russians have once again proved that they support any project which has as its aim the subjugation, enslavement, and annihilation of Muslims. The Russians cannot forgive Muslims for contributing to the downfall of the former empire called the Soviet Union.

They cannot forgive Muslims for fighting valiantly in Afghanistan, for defeating the mighty Red Army. One cannot separate the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia from the killing of Muslims in Azerbaijan, Chechen, and Tajikistan.

What is certain is that Muslim nations will never forget the bloody gift of veto Russia gave to the criminal Serbs. They will think twice before signing any economic or political agreement with a country which has, in effect, ensured the annihilation of Muslims in the Balkans.

The Russian veto once again demonstrates the unjust nature of veto power within the United Nations. Veto power is an undue advantage of the big powers over the small nations. The United States and Great Britain used the veto to ensure that the crimes of the Zionist regime would continue. Veto power has meant a mockery of self determination of smaller nations. It shows that what is important in the UN is the interest of international bullies, the new modern pirates, acting in the guise of international diplomacy.

If there ever was a grain of commitment by the powers of the UN, they would not have allowed the situation to deteriorate to this point. They would not have allowed ethnic cleansing in the heart of Europe.

The very powers which reacted promptly to ensure the success of expelling Iraq from Kuwait have been fiddling while Bosnia has been burning.

The Islamic nations must know that the Security Council will continue to dillydally on the Bosnian issue. Muslim nations are the only hope that our Bosnian brothers and sisters have. Muslim bodies such as the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) must act now before Muslims in Bosnia cease to exist.

Pakistan

Air Force Considers Buying Foreign Aircraft

BK0812083294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Dec 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Assembly was informed today that Pakistan Air Force is considering different options for inducting in its fleet aircraft of different origins. Answering a question by Chaudhary Mohammad Jafar Iqbal, the defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, said there has been no progress as yet in the F-16 case. He said the matter is expected to be discussed with the U.S. defense secretary during his visit to Pakistan next month.

The house was also informed by the minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, that five companies have been given contract for oil exploration during the past six months.

Editorial: Government's 'Duty' To End Violence

BK0912004694 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 8 Dec 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Karachi—Increase in Terrorist Activities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The general manager of an Urdu evening paper was murdered in his office in Karachi the other day. The members of his staff escaped unhurt, however. Similarly, terrorists fired indiscriminately at

the office of an adviser and counselor to the Pakistan People's Party. Two policemen were abducted and later killed; their bodies were found lying on the street. In all, 14 people, including two policemen, have been the victims of terrorism in Karachi. Earlier, Maulana Mohammad Salahuddin, the editor of the weekly TAK-BEER, was murdered in cold blood. Since the withdrawal of the Army, the disorder and violence that has continued for a long time in Karachi has intensified. Now it appears that the subversive and terrorist elements want to test the government's muscle power.

A story about the arrival of the governor of India's Assam State in Karachi a few days ago and his alleged meeting and somewhat bitter exchange with the Sindh chief minister has also been published in the newspapers. The government has yet to give any clarification about the veracity of this story, but it is no secret that the more setbacks the Indian authorities suffer at the hands of the freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir, the more they increase their mischievous activities. It is also no secret that India's notorious agency, the Research and Analysis Wing [RAW], has made Pakistan a target of its terrorist activities. This has been confirmed not only by RAW agents arrested in Pakistan but also by India's own investigators and intellectuals.

Under these circumstances, it is the duty of the federal and provincial governments to pay special attention to restoring peace in this most sensitive province following the withdrawal of the Army. The Sindh Government has already announced its decision to convene an all-party conference to resolve the problems. It is hoped that the federal government will also take steps to convene this conference soon to help wipe out the terrorists and subversive elements—in Karachi in particular and Sindh in general—to create an atmosphere of peace and order.

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